

Weekly Report

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WEEK ENDING DEC. 30, 1955

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PLATFORMS

**Both Parties Write Mixed Record
On Keeping Campaign Pledges**

OF SPECIAL INTEREST :

**LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK
FOR SECOND SESSION**

**BACKGROUND REPORT
ON ADA'S ACTIVITY**

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The Authoritative Reference On Congress

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Congressional Quiz

Score yourself on this quiz. If you can ring up 9 points (out of a possible 14), you're probably "well informed" on the background of current issues.

1. Q--What's the origin of the oft-banded political term "buncombe" or "bunkum"? Does it come from: (a) Homer S. Buncombe, inventor of the hot air furnace; (b) Buncombe County, N.C.; (c) a windy character in a Dickens novel; (d) the battle of Bunkum Hill?

A--(b) According to Webster, the phrase "to speak for Buncombe" -- that is, to make empty speeches for mere show -- was first used around 1820 by Rep. Felix Walker of N.C., whose district included Buncombe County. While he rattled on, the House impatiently demanded action. But Walker persevered, alleging that his constituents expected him to "make a speech for Buncombe." Sequel: He was defeated for re-election in 1822.



2. Q--True or false: Of the 30 governor's chairs at stake in 1956, about half were won by less than 55 percent of the vote in the last election.

A--True, Congressional Quarterly's recent survey shows. Fifteen Democratic and 15 Republican seats are up.

3. Q--True or false: Next year's GOP Presidential nominating convention, scheduled to open

Aug. 20, will begin later than any other Republican national convention in history.

A--True. And only one Democratic convention was held later -- the Aug. 29, 1864, rally naming George B. McClellan to run against Abraham Lincoln.

4. Q--Are deaths and resignations among Members of the 84th Congress running (a) about average; (b) above average; or (c) below average?

A--(c) Way below average, so far -- with only three deaths, no resignations. A CQ analysis shows that an average of 16.2 lawmakers died and 11.8 resigned for each Congress (two-year period) since 1945.

5. Q--Sen. Walter F. George of Georgia says he plans to run again. Several other Senators bear a last name -- like George -- that is commonly used as a man's first or Christian name. Name five -- and take one point for each.

A--Democratic Senators include Richard B. Russell, likewise of Georgia; Paul H. Douglas (Ill.), Price Daniel (Texas), Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.) and James E. Murray (Mont.). Republicans have Edward Martin (Pa.), Thomas E. Martin (Iowa), and Carl T. Curtis (Neb.). Also -- though used less frequently -- Wallace E. Bennett (R Utah), Henry M. Jackson (D Wash.), and W. Kerr Scott (D N.C.).

NOTE: CQ Weekly Report pages on which additional data may be found: (2) 1303; (3) 1261; (4) 872, 1253.

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1952 PROMISES MATCHED AGAINST ACTION

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Note: Source of all figures on federal expenditures and loan commitments is the Bureau of the Budget. Figures for fiscal 1956 are Budget Bureau estimates. In some cases, these estimates were revised by the Bureau as of August, 1955. Where revised estimates were not available, fiscal 1956 figures are Bureau estimates transmitted to Congress in January, 1955.

Both Democrats and Republicans can claim they kept most of their 1952 platform pledges and can charge that their opponents broke faith with the voters.

The paradox is no accident. Platforms are written in generalities broad enough to cover almost any interpretation the reader chooses.

Even when clear-cut action is taken on a concrete pledge, responsibility may be confused. If federal spending is cut, who gets the credit? And if farm prices fall, who's to blame?

Another source of confusion: Republicans and Democrats pilfered planks from each other's platforms. Each party helped fulfill its opponent's pledges, and then claimed credit.

Chairman Styles Bridges (R N.H.) of the Senate Republican Policy Committee exclaims: "Never before has a political party (the Republicans) kept so faithfully its promises to the voters!" Chairman Paul M. Butler of the Democratic National Committee replies: "The Eisenhower Administration and the majority of the Republicans in Congress have broken their campaign promises to farmers, to labor, and to small business."

Both leaders have a stake in convincing the voters that their parties are trustworthy. Nominating conventions will make a new set of promises in 1956.

Congressional Quarterly has kept books on the record for 1953 through 1955, matching the campaign platforms against the parties' performances. Highlights of the ledger:

Democrats promised to "protect" producers of the six basic farm commodities with "mandatory price support(s)...at not less than 90 percent of parity." Republicans "aimed at full parity prices for all farm products in the market place...."

Both parties failed. Democrats voted to continue rigid supports at 90 percent of parity, but the Administration's program of lower, flexible supports was enacted. Farm prices on the market declined.

Democrats and Republicans pledged to work for reduction of federal spending. Spending was reduced, although the parties did not always agree on where to cut down.

The Republicans set out to attain the "goal" of a "balanced budget" and a "reduced national debt." They failed, as the deficit continued and the debt ceiling was raised -- with bipartisan support. The Administration held out hope that the budget might be balanced by June 30, 1956.

The GOP promised "a general tax reduction," and the Democrats favored "reducing taxes, especially for people with lower incomes..." Republicans also pledged "thorough revision and codification" of the tax laws. Taxes were cut and the revenue laws were overhauled. Democrats tried but failed to enact reductions aimed specifically at low-income groups.

Both parties said they would seek peace in Korea. A cease-fire was signed, but a final settlement was not achieved.

Democrats promised more than the Republicans in their social security plank. Congressional performance backed the broader program, with both parties supporting extension of coverage and increased benefit payments.

In a major platform split, the Democrats called for repeal of the Taft-Hartley labor law while the GOP promised amendments. Neither party came through.

Details of the Platforms vs. Performance record, with pledges and action by the Administration and Congress -- 1953-55 -- classified according to major categories and sub-categories:

AGRICULTURE Price Supports

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We will continue to protect the producers of basic agricultural commodities under the terms of a mandatory price support program at not less than 90 percent of parity. We continue to advocate practical methods for extending price supports to other storable and to the producers of perishable commodities...."

REPUBLICANS -- "We favor a farm program aimed at full parity prices for all farm products in the market place.... We condemn as a fraud on both the farmer and the consumer the Brannan plan scheme to pay direct subsidies from the federal Treasury in lieu of prices to producers.... Our program should include commodity loans on all non-perishable products supported at the level necessary to maintain a balanced production. Where government action on perishable commodities is desirable, we recommend locally controlled marketing agreements and other voluntary methods.... We do not believe in restrictions on the American farmers' ability to produce."

Performance

In 1954 most Republicans supported and Congress enacted a system of flexible (or sliding-scale) price supports on basic commodities. Democrats, joined by some Republicans, failed in efforts to retain rigid (or fixed) supports at 90 percent of parity in 1954, and again in 1955 when the Senate failed to act on a House-passed bill to restore the rigid-supports system. Efforts to raise the minimum support level for dairy products and to establish mandatory support of small grains -- backed by most Democrats and opposed by most Republicans -- failed. The Senate rejected price supports for beef cattle, proposed by Democrats in 1954.

ADMINISTRATION

President Eisenhower in 1954 asked Congress to replace rigid price supports on five basic commodities -- wheat, cotton, corn, rice, and peanuts -- with flexible supports; to continue 90 percent supports for the sixth basic, tobacco; and to authorize direct compensatory payments to wool producers as a substitute for orthodox price supports. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson set 1955 supports at the following levels:

Basic Commodities -- Wheat, 82.5 percent of parity, reduced from 90; corn, 87 percent, reduced from 90; rice, 86 percent, reduced from 91; cotton and peanuts, 90 percent, the same level as in 1954. Tobacco, the sixth basic, retained rigid supports at 90 percent of parity.

Wool -- 106 percent of parity, increased from 90.

Dairy Products -- Butterfat, 76 percent of parity, reduced from 90; manufacturing milk, 80 percent, reduced from 90. In 1954, supports for butterfat and manufacturing milk were reduced to 75 percent of parity.

Other Commodities -- Feed grains and other non-basic commodities, reduced an average of 15 percent.

CONGRESS

Basic Commodities -- Set price supports on wheat, cotton, corn, rice and peanuts on a flexible scale ranging from 82.5 to 90 percent of parity for 1955, from 75 to 90 percent thereafter. Continued supports on tobacco at 90 percent of parity.

Wool -- Authorized direct cash payments to producers to compensate for gaps between the support level -- 60 to 110 percent of parity -- and the price on the free market.

Dairy Products -- Continued price supports between 75 and 90 percent of parity and extended supports to fluid milk and butterfat.

Other Commodities -- Repealed the ban against direct price supports for Irish potatoes. Continued discretionary price supports for non-basic feed grains, oil seeds, eggs, and poultry. Continued mandatory supports for tung nuts and honey between 60 and 90 percent of parity.

In 1955, the House passed a bill to restore rigid price supports at 90 percent of parity for the five basic commodities and to raise the minimum support level for dairy products from 75 to 80 percent of parity. The Senate did not act on the measure.

VOTES

Continue rigid 90 percent supports on basic commodities. Rejected.

		Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954:	FOR	32	7
	AGAINST	11	37

Support five basic commodities on flexible scale. Accepted.

		Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954:	FOR	10	39
	AGAINST	35	8
House, 1954:	FOR	45	182
	AGAINST	147	23

Restore rigid 90 percent supports on five basic commodities. Passed by one chamber.

		Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955:	FOR	185	21
	AGAINST	29	172

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. X, 1954, pp. 100ff, 140ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 169ff.

Soil and Water Conservation Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We will accelerate programs of upstream flood prevention, watershed protection, and soil... and water conservation in all parts of the country.... We will continue the widest possible farmer participation... in the conduct and administration of these... programs...."

REPUBLICANS -- "We support a constructive and expanded soil conservation program administered through locally controlled local districts and which shall emphasize that payments shall be made for practices and improvements of a permanent nature."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Conservation Program -- Gave greater responsibility to state offices of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and abolished the seven regional SCS offices.

Upstream Watersheds -- Asked Congress to authorize farmers in local organizations to take the initiative to strengthen conservation in upstream watersheds, in cooperation with federal agencies.

CONGRESS

Conservation Payments -- Extended through 1956 cost-sharing assistance to farmers for approved soil and water conservation practices. Required compliance with acreage allotments as a condition for receiving conservation payments, then repealed the penalty provision in 1955. Voted large authorizations for conservation payments than requested by the Administration in 1953 and 1955. Conservation authorizations compared to the \$250 million voted for 1953 in the last year of the Truman Administration, 1952:

1953, decreased to \$195 million
1954, \$250 million
1955, \$250 million.

Soil Conservation Service -- Appropriations for SCS operation of conservation and flood prevention programs, compared to the \$62.3 voted in 1952 for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$71.5 million
Fiscal 1955, increased to \$74.5 million
Fiscal 1956, increased to \$81.3 million.

Both parties supported the increases.

Upstream Watersheds -- Enacted, with bipartisan support, a 1954 bill authorizing federal cost-sharing assistance to local watershed groups willing to initiate and carry out upstream watershed conservation measures.

Water Conservation Loans -- Extended eligibility for loans and loan insurance to farmers and farm groups in all 48 states. This aid in financing construction of water conservation facilities had been limited to the 17 western states. Both parties backed the 1954 extension.

VOTES

Increase authorization for conservation payments to farmers from \$195 million to \$225 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1953: FOR	32	6
AGAINST	6	32

Reduce conservation authorization from \$195 million to \$140 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	44	152
AGAINST	146	54

Reduce conservation authorization from \$250 million to \$195 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	1	4
AGAINST	44	32

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 132ff, 290ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 100ff, 135ff, 148ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 187, 198ff.

Farm Credit

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We have provided credit facilities for all agriculture, including means by which young men, veterans...and farm tenants have been encouraged to become farmers and farm home-owners, and through which low-income farmers have been assisted in establishing self-sustaining and fully productive farm units. We will not waver in our efforts to provide such incentives."

REPUBLICANS -- "Our program includes...sufficient farm credit..."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Farm Credit Administration -- Asked Congress in 1953 to permit gradual retirement of government capital from FCA. FCA continued to extend credit through the federal intermediate credit banks to production credit associations and privately capitalized farm lending institutions by discounting short-term notes. New FCA loan commitments compared to the \$1.9 billion in commitments for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$1.8 billion
Fiscal 1955, \$1.9 billion (estimated)
Fiscal 1956, increased to \$2 billion (estimated).

Farmers Home Administration -- New FHA commitments for loans to farmers unable to obtain credit from other sources, compared to the \$176 million in commitments for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$192 million
Fiscal 1955, increased to \$186 million (estimated)
Fiscal 1956, increased to \$217 million (estimated).

Low-Income Farmers -- President Eisenhower in 1955 recommended to Congress a 15-point program to aid low-income farmers. New loan authority was a key point.

CONGRESS

Farm Credit Administration -- Reorganized the FCA in 1953 as an independent agency under the control of a 13-member board composed mainly of farmers. The law laid the groundwork for systematically retiring

government capital from the program and granting farmers greater control of FCA-supervised credit agencies. In 1955, Congress provided for the retirement of government capital from FCA-supervised banks for cooperatives. Both measures were passed with bipartisan support.

Disaster Loans -- Passed the Farmers and Stockmen Emergency Assistance Act in 1953, authorizing loans in disaster areas to those unable to obtain financing elsewhere. Extended the Act for two years in 1955. Authorized, in 1954, up to \$15 million in federal loans to farmers and ranchers suffering "economic disaster" because of declining prices, and renewed the program for two years in 1955. Cut maximum interest rates on "economic disaster" loans to 3 percent, reversing an increase to 5 percent ordered by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1955. These disaster loan measures were supported by both parties.

Loans to Low-Income Farmers -- Took no action in 1955 on an Administration bill to establish a new program for loans to low-income and part-time farmers unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 106ff, 114ff, 132ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 134, 148ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 56ff, 182ff, 188.

Rural Electrification

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We will continue to fight to make electricity available to all rural homes, with adequate facilities for the generation and transmission of power. Through the rural telephone program...we will provide opportunity for every farm home to have this modern essential service...We favor...wider and more equitable distribution of electric energy at the lower cost to the consumer with continuing preference to public agencies and REA cooperatives."

REPUBLICANS -- "We support the principle of bona fide farmer-owned, farmer-operated cooperatives and urge the further development of rural electrification and communication, with federally assisted production of power and facilities for distribution when these are not adequately available through private enterprise at fair rates."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Rural Electrification Administration new commitments for electricity and telephone loans, compared to the \$201 million in commitments for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$242 million
Fiscal 1955, increased to \$220 million
Fiscal 1956, increased to \$265 million (estimated).

CONGRESS

Modified the formula for allocating REA loan funds to the states, channeling a bigger share into loans for expanding and improving existing systems -- as opposed to establishing new systems in unelectrified areas. Both parties supported this 1955 measure.

New authorizations for REA electricity and telephone loans, compared to the \$92.5 million authorized for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$202.5 million; 40 percent above President's request
Fiscal 1955, increased to \$210 million; 54 percent above request
Fiscal 1956, increased to \$235 million; 2 percent above request.

Senate Republicans opposed the fiscal 1955 increase; otherwise, both parties supported increases.

VOTE

Increase loan authorization for rural electrification from \$100 million to \$135 million. Accepted.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	35	6
AGAINST	3	37

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 132ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 148ff, 183; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 184ff, 198ff.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE

Education

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We urge that federal contributions be made available to state and local units which adhere to basic minimum standards....We pledge immediate consideration for those school systems which need further legislation to provide federal aid for new school construction, teachers' salaries and school maintenance and repair..."

REPUBLICANS -- "The tradition of popular education, tax supported and free to all, is strong with our people. The responsibility for sustaining this system of popular education has always rested upon the local communities and the states. We subscribe fully to this principle."

Performance

The 84th Congress deferred action on the President's plan to stimulate school construction. Both parties supported extension of school aid to areas where federal defense activities increased the school population abnormally, but the amount of aid was reduced.

ADMINISTRATION

School Construction -- Requested in 1955 a program of federal aid for construction of school buildings through purchase of local school bonds, support of a lease-purchase plan, and grants-in-aid of \$200 million in three years for impoverished school districts. Proposed total federal, state, and local school construction spending of \$7 billion in three years. All but \$220 million of the

federal government's \$1.12 billion contribution would be repaid to the Treasury.

Federally Impacted Areas -- Requested extension of laws authorizing federal aid for school construction and operation in areas crowded because of defense projects and other federal activities.

Studies of Education Problems -- Requested authorization for a national conference to study the nation's educational problems; authority for the Office of Education to conduct research in cooperation with state and local agencies; and establishment of an advisory committee on education in the Office of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

CONGRESS

School Construction -- Deferred action on a bill, reported to the House in 1955, to establish a four-year program of federal aid through bond purchases, support of lease-purchase plans, and grants to states of up to \$1.6 billion -- eight times the amount requested by the President.

Federally Impacted Areas -- Extended authority for federal aid for school construction, operation, and maintenance through June, 1957. Appropriations compared to the \$255.5 million voted for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$197.4 million
Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$193.5 million
Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$89 million.

Studies of Education Problems -- Authorized a White House Conference on Education and funds for preparatory state conferences; authorized Office of Education contracts with colleges for joint studies of education problems; established a nine-member National Advisory Committee on Education. House Democrats opposed the Advisory Committee; the other measures were enacted with bipartisan support.

Oil-for-Education -- A Senate amendment which eventually would have earmarked federal oil and mineral revenues from the continental shelf for aid to education was deleted by a conference committee in 1953.

VOTE

Dedicate federal revenues from oil and mineral leases on the continental shelf to defense during national emergency, thereafter to education. Accepted, but later deleted in conference.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1953: FOR	34	11
AGAINST	7	30

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 151ff, 169ff, 193ff, 397ff;
Vol. X, 1954, 163ff, 179ff, 206-09;
Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 232ff, 247ff, 265ff.

Social Security

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We favor further strengthening of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, through...increasing benefits, extending them to more people, and lowering the retirement age for women. We favor the complete elimination of the work clause...Those contributing... should be permitted to draw benefits upon reaching the age of eligibility and still continue to work."

REPUBLICANS -- "The best assurance of preserving the benefits for which the worker paid is to stop the inflation which causes...loss of purchasing power, and that we propose to do. We favor amendment of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance system to provide coverage for those justly entitled to it but who are excluded..."

Performance

Social security coverage was extended to 10 million more workers and monthly benefit payments were increased, with the support of the President and both parties. The House in 1955 passed, with bipartisan support, a Democratic-sponsored bill to lower the eligibility age for women, extend coverage to more occupations, and pay disability benefits. The Senate deferred action.

ADMINISTRATION

Coverage -- Requested extension to 10.5 million workers, including domestics, lawyers, architects, physicians, dentists, self-employed farmers, farm laborers not already covered, clergymen, and state and local government employees.

Benefits -- Requested increases in minimum and maximum monthly payments.

"Work Clause" -- Requested revision to permit earnings of as much as \$1,000 a year without loss of benefit payments.

CONGRESS

Coverage -- Extended OASI in 1954 to about 10 million additional workers, including self-employed farmers, state and local government employees, farm workers, domestic workers, and ministers. Omitted coverage of physicians, lawyers, dentists, and certain other self-employed professionals. The House in 1955 passed and the Senate deferred action on a bill to extend coverage to all major recognized professional groups except physicians.

Benefits -- Increased monthly payments to \$30 minimum and \$108.50 maximum for individuals, and to a maximum of \$200 for families.

"Work Clause" -- Increased to \$1,200 the amount a retired person might earn without losing benefits; removed the earnings limitation for workers at age 72.

Benefits for Women -- The House in 1955 passed and the Senate deferred action on a Democratic-sponsored

bill to lower from 65 to 62 the age at which women would be eligible to collect retirement and survivors' benefits.

VOTES

Extend social security coverage, increase benefits, ease work clause. Passed.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1954: FOR	174	181
AGAINST	6	2

Lower eligibility age for women and disabled workers, extend coverage to professionals. Passed by one chamber.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR	203	169
AGAINST	8	23

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanac, Vol. X, 1954, pp. 188, 248; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 261ff.

Health

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We pledge...support for the campaign that modern medicine is waging against mental illness, cancer, heart disease...We advocate federal aid for medical education to help overcome the growing shortages of...trained health personnel...We pledge support for federal aid to hospital construction...increased federal aid to promote public health through preventive programs and health services, especially in rural areas...We also advocate a resolute attack on the heavy financial hazard of serious illness...The policy of aiding states...to insure needed maternity, child health and welfare services should be maintained and extended..."

REPUBLICANS -- "We recognize that the health of our people as well as their proper medical care cannot be maintained if subject to federal bureaucratic dictation. There should be a just division of responsibility between government, the physician, the voluntary hospital, and voluntary health insurance. We are opposed to federal compulsory health insurance...We shall support those health activities by government which stimulate the development of adequate hospital services without federal interference in local administration. We favor support of scientific research...encouragement of improved methods of assuring health protection."

Performance

The Administration failed in two attempts to establish federal reinsurance to expand private health insurance. Led by a majority of Democrats, the House killed a reinsurance bill in 1954, and Congress ignored the proposal in 1955.

Existing federal programs for medical research and hospital construction aid were continued. After cutting the fiscal 1954 budget in 1953, Congress in 1954 and 1955 voted more money for these programs than had been provided in 1952.

With support by both parties, Congress in 1954 authorized new programs of federal aid for construction of medical facilities other than general hospitals and expansion of vocational rehabilitation programs. Congress in 1955 did not act on Administration proposals for federal aid to help train health personnel, for expansion of private loans for construction of medical facilities, and for aid to states for medical care for persons on relief.

ADMINISTRATION

Health Insurance -- Proposed legislation to establish a federal reinsurance fund to encourage private voluntary insurance plans to expand coverage of severe illness, and low-income and rural groups.

Hospital Construction -- Proposed to stimulate state, local, and private construction of hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes through expanded federal grants and mortgage insurance of private loans. After cutting the fiscal 1954 budget, asked Congress to increase fiscal 1955 and 1956 funds for federal grants-in-aid for construction of hospitals and public health centers.

Research -- Cut the fiscal 1954 budget in 1953, then asked Congress to increase fiscal 1955 and 1956 funds for research by the National Institutes of Health on cancer, mental health, heart disease, and other illnesses.

Public Health Service -- Proposed to expand PHS programs, particularly for mothers and crippled children. Proposed greater flexibility in state use of PHS grants. Asked Congress for increased funds for all PHS programs for fiscal 1956, after cutting budget requests for fiscal 1954 and 1955 below the fiscal 1953 level.

Health Personnel -- Proposed to expand training of practical nurses and specialists through grants to states and establishment of traineeships by the Public Health Service.

Other Programs -- Proposed increased federal aid to state vocational rehabilitation programs, a new program of mental health grants, and federal aid for medical care of persons on state and local relief rolls.

CONGRESS

Health Insurance -- The House in 1954 killed a bill to establish federal reinsurance of private health insurance systems, and Congress took no action on reinsurance in 1955.

Hospital Construction -- Extended through June 30, 1957, the law authorizing federal aid to the states for hospital construction. Authorized, in 1954, a new program of aid to states for surveys and construction of hospitals for the chronically ill, rehabilitation facilities, nonprofit nursing homes, and diagnostic or treatment centers. Both measures received bipartisan support. Took no action in 1955 on an Administration-sponsored bill to provide federal mortgage insurance of private loans for construction of medical facilities. Appropriations for

federal aid for hospital construction, compared to the \$75 million appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased 13 percent to \$65 million
Fiscal 1955, increased 28 percent to \$96 million
Fiscal 1956, increased 61 percent to \$111 million.

Research -- National Institutes of Health appropriations compared to the \$59 million appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased 20 percent to \$71.2 million
Fiscal 1955, increased 38 percent to \$81.3 million
Fiscal 1956, increased 65 percent to record \$97.8 million.

Public Health Service -- Took no action in 1955 on an Administration-sponsored bill to expand Public Health Service programs. Did not complete action on a House-passed bill to revise formulas for grants to the states. Increased appropriations for all PHS activities for fiscal 1956, after reducing PHS funds for fiscal 1954 and 1955 below the amount appropriated in 1952 for fiscal 1953.

Health Personnel -- Took no action on a 1955 omnibus health bill to provide grants and Public Health Service traineeships for training nurses and other medical specialists.

Other Programs -- Authorized with bipartisan support, increased federal aid for state vocational rehabilitation programs -- including training of doctors and other technicians -- and a three-year, \$1.25 million program of federal aid for study of mental health problems. Took no action on Administration-sponsored legislation to expand federal grants for mental health projects and on Administration proposals to provide federal aid for medical care of persons on state and local relief rolls.

VOTES

Recommit (kill) bill to establish federal reinsurance of private health insurance plans. Recommended.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1954: FOR recommitment (against bill)	162	75
AGAINST recommitment (for bill)	14	120

Increase funds for grants to states for hospital construction to \$75 million. Final compromise: \$65 million.

	Democrats	Republicans
House rejected, 1953:		
FOR	166	31
AGAINST	29	173
Senate accepted, 1953:		
FOR	34	8
AGAINST	6	35

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 151ff, 177, 179, 193ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 213, 215, 220, 221, 247; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 56ff, 232ff.

Housing

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We pledge ourselves to the fulfillment of the programs of private housing, public low-rent housing, slum clearance, urban redevelopment, farm housing, and housing research as authorized by the Housing Act of 1949...to enact additional legislation to promote housing required for defense workers, middle income families, aged persons and migratory farm laborers...to provide special housing aids to veterans and their families."

REPUBLICANS -- "With local cooperation we shall aid slum clearance."

Performance

Congress continued federal aid to private housing, slum clearance, and urban redevelopment programs, with the support of the Administration and both parties. The Housing Act of 1954 liberalized terms on government-backed loans for private housing. Administration agencies tightened, then eased, controls on financing of homes purchased with government-guaranteed mortgages.

The parties differed on federal aid to public housing. Compromises reduced authorizations for new public housing far below the 135,000 units per year authorized in 1949. The President requested 35,000 new units a year. A majority of House Republicans voted consistently to terminate public housing. House Democrats and both parties in the Senate voted to continue the program.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Housing -- Asked Congress in 1953 for authority to contract for 35,000 new public housing units in fiscal 1954. The fiscal 1953 authorization had been 35,000 units. Proposed in 1954 a four-year authorization of 140,000 units at the rate of 35,000 per year. Proposed in 1955 a two-year 70,000-unit program for low-income families and persons displaced by slum clearance and urban renewal operations.

Private Housing -- Asked Congress to increase the Federal Housing Administration's general insurance authorization, permit FHA to insure larger housing mortgages and loans, and empower FHA to insure mortgages -- on inexpensive homes for low-income families -- with small down payments and long maturities. Proposed reorganization of the Federal National Mortgage Association as a secondary market financed largely by private funds. Tightened, then relaxed, financing terms on mortgages backed by the FHA and Veterans Administration.

Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment -- Proposed an expanded program of federal loans and grants, and new authority for FHA insurance of private credit for elimination of slums and rehabilitation of neighborhoods.

Farm Housing -- Asked Congress to permit authority for farm housing loans under the 1949 Housing Act to expire as scheduled June 30, 1954.

CONGRESS

Public Housing -- Continued the pattern established in 1951 and 1952 of limiting new public housing contracts to a number far below the 135,000 units per year -- to a total of 810,000 -- authorized in 1949. Rejected Administration requests for four-year and two-year programs. Authorized one-year programs: fiscal 1954, 20,000 new units; fiscal 1955, 35,000; fiscal 1956, 45,000. Restricted construction under the fiscal 1955 authorization to dwellings needed to house persons displaced by slum clearance or other government programs. Removed the restriction from the fiscal 1956 authorization.

Private Housing -- Increased the FHA general mortgage insurance authorization, adding \$4 billion to the amount outstanding July 1, 1955. Authorized the FHA to insure larger housing loans with longer maturities and to back loans on low-cost homes for low-income families. Reorganized the Federal National Mortgage Association in 1954, providing for gradual liquidation of the government's investment and its replacement by private funds.

Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment -- Expanded the existing federal program by making loans and grants available for urban renewal projects as well as slum clearance upon submission of workable local plans. Authorized a new program for FHA insurance of private credit for construction and rehabilitation of homes in blighted -- pre-slum -- areas. Increased by \$500 million the authorization for federal assistance to slum clearance and urban renewal programs through fiscal 1957.

Farm Housing -- Extended authority for the farm housing loan program in 1954, when it was scheduled to expire, and again in 1955. Authorized \$100 million in loans for farm houses and buildings and \$12 million for farm improvements for fiscal 1956. Both measures received bipartisan support.

Defense Housing -- Twice extended, then terminated in 1955 federal authority for construction and FHA mortgage insurance of housing in critical defense areas. The parties agreed.

Research -- Provided, with bipartisan support, for liquidation of the Housing and Home Finance Agency research program by April 30, 1954.

Housing for the Aged -- The House in 1955 killed provisions of a Senate bill to establish a new program of public housing for elderly persons.

Housing for Migratory Workers -- Authorized a new program permitting FHA mortgage insurance of land and improvements for trailer parks.

VOTES

Reduce public housing authorization from 135,000 units annually to 35,000 units a year for two years. Rejected.*

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	6	32
AGAINST	35	9

Eliminate provisions for public housing and housing for the aged. Accepted (provisions eliminated).*

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR	66	151
AGAINST	152	36

Authorize 35,000 public housing units annually for four years. Accepted.*

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	28	38
AGAINST	13	2

Authorize public housing at rate of 35,000 units annually, instead of terminating program. Rejected.*

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	122	34
AGAINST	69	176
House, 1954: FOR	127	48
AGAINST	61	150

* Differences between Senate and House bills later were compromised.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 141ff, 180, 190ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 37ff, 198ff, 314ff, 244, 250; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 253ff.

FOREIGN POLICY

Foreign Aid

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "...the mutual security programs now under way...stand as landmarks of America's progress in mobilizing the strength of the free world to keep the peace...This nation needs strong allies...making their maximum contribution to the common defense...The continuance of ever stronger and more vigorous Point Four programs -- sponsored both by this country and by the United Nations -- is an indispensable element in creating a peaceful world."

REPUBLICANS -- "We shall always measure our foreign commitments so that they can be borne without endangering the economic health or sound finances of the United States...We shall not allow ourselves to be isolated and economically strangled, and we shall not let ourselves go bankrupt...We shall not try to buy good will...We favor international exchange of agricultural and industrial techniques, and programs for improvement of public health."

Performance

The President and majorities of both parties supported continued use of U.S. funds for military, economic, and technical foreign aid. Congress extended the mutual security program on an annual basis in 1953, 1954, and 1955, but steadily reduced appropriations and consistently cut the President's requests. The bulk of new funds was spent on military aid, but the proportion spent on economic aid increased -- from 30 percent in fiscal 1953 to an estimated 44 percent in fiscal 1956. Emphasis shifted from Europe to Asia.

ADMINISTRATION

Asked Congress in 1953, 1954, and 1955 to renew on an annual basis the mutual security program for military, economic, and technical aid. Steadily reduced budget estimates for the program below the \$7.6 billion peak of fiscal 1951.

Proposed in 1954 that not less than \$100 million of new mutual security funds be reserved for loans rather than grants.

Earmarked most of new funds for fiscal 1954 for the 13 North Atlantic Treaty allies in Europe, shifted emphasis to Asia in the following years.

Total spending for the mutual security program, compared to the \$5.7 billion spent in fiscal 1953, when \$4 billion -- 70 percent -- of funds were spent for military aid:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$4.9 billion, including \$3.6 billion -- 73 percent -- for military aid
Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$4.1 billion, including \$2.2 billion -- 54 percent -- for military aid
Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$3.9 billion, including \$2.2 billion -- 56 percent -- for military aid (estimated).

CONGRESS

Renewed the mutual security program on an annual basis in 1953, 1954, and 1955, with support by both parties. Appropriations of new money, compared to the \$6 billion appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$4.5 billion -- 12 percent below President's request
Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$2.8 billion -- 19 percent below request
Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$2.7 billion -- 17 percent below request.

In addition to new money, \$2.1 billion was reappropriated for fiscal 1954, \$2.5 billion for fiscal 1955, and \$63 million for fiscal 1956.

Appropriations were enacted with bipartisan support, but the parties differed on amounts.

Required in 1954 that 30 percent of new money for economic aid be disbursed as loans, rather than grants. Repealed the requirement in 1955.

Continued the U.S. technical cooperation (Point Four) programs and progressively increased funds available for U.S. contributions to the United Nations' expanded program of technical assistance.

VOTES

Increase funds for military assistance by \$420 million. Accepted.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	21	29
AGAINST	23	15

Reduce funds for military aid by \$200 million. Accepted.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	29	12
AGAINST	7	26

Reduce funds for military aid to Europe by \$500 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1953: FOR	13	18
AGAINST	28	24

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 156ff, 218ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 167ff, 275ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 235ff, 301ff.

World Trade

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We vigorously oppose any restrictive policies which would weaken the highly successful reciprocal trade program fathered by Cordell Hull...Our... economy requires expanded export markets for our manufactured and agricultural products and a greater supply of essential imported raw materials...Our friends throughout the world will have opportunity to earn their own way to higher living standards with lessened dependence on our aid."

REPUBLICANS -- "...we shall press for the elimination of discriminatory practices against our exports such as preferential tariffs, monetary license restrictions, and other arbitrary devices. Our reciprocal trade agreements will be entered into and maintained on a basis of true reciprocity and to safeguard our domestic enterprises and the payrolls of our workers against unfair import competition."

Performance

After the 83rd Congress had deferred action on a long-range program, the 84th enacted a three-year extension of the President's authority to enter into reciprocal trade agreements, and added new power to negotiate tariff reductions. Senate Republicans successfully opposed the measure in 1954. Both parties supported it in 1955 after some "protectionist" amendments were added.

ADMINISTRATION

Reciprocal Trade Agreements -- Requested a three-year extension of authority to negotiate tariff agreements.

Tariff Reductions -- Requested authority to negotiate reduction of existing tariffs on a gradual, selective, reciprocal basis. After receiving the requested authority, announced negotiations with about 25 nations on reciprocal tariff concessions.

Protection of U.S. Industries -- Ordered tariff increases for alsike clover seed, watch movements, and bicycles under "escape clause" authority to protect injured U.S. industries; refused eight increases recommended by the Tariff Commission.

Trade Cooperation -- Requested approval of U.S. membership in an Organization for Trade Cooperation, set up to administer a 34-nation provisional code of fair competition in foreign trade practices.

CONGRESS

Reciprocal Trade Agreements -- Enacted one-year extensions in 1953 and 1954 of the President's authority to negotiate; extended his authority for three years in 1955.

Tariff Reductions -- Granted the President authority in 1955 to reduce tariffs through reciprocal agreements on a selective basis over a three-year period.

Protection of U.S. Industries -- The House killed a 1953 bill to impose oil-import quotas and lead and zinc tariff increases. Congress strengthened protection against foreign competition in 1955 by authorizing the President to limit imports threatening to impair national security, and by broadening definitions of injury warranting relief through use of peril-point and escape-clause provisions.

Trade Cooperation -- Took no action on a bill to approve U.S. membership in the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

Discrimination Against U.S. Trade -- Authorized the President in 1955 to suspend trade concessions to any nation discriminating against U.S. commerce.

VOTES

Extend (Reciprocal) Trade Agreements Act for three years and allow gradual tariff reductions.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate rejected, 1954:		
FOR	32	0
AGAINST	6	39
Senate passed, 1955:		
FOR	37	38
AGAINST	6	7
House passed, 1955:		
FOR	186	109
AGAINST:	35	75

Recommit (kill) bill to impose import quotas on petroleum products and raise tariffs on lead and zinc. Recommended.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR		
recommittal (against bill)	137	104
AGAINST		
recommittal (for bill)	56	105

Delete provisions to facilitate requests by industry for relief from foreign competition. Rejected (provisions retained).

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	21	0
deletion		
AGAINST	21	46
deletion		

Limit President's powers by requiring compliance with Tariff Commission recommendations for relief to domestic industries claiming injury. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR	80	119
AGAINST	140	66

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 210ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 265ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 289ff.

Immigration, Refugees

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We pledge continued cooperation with other free nations to solve (problems of refugees)... continued aid to refugees... continuing revision of our immigration and naturalization laws to do away with any unjust and unfair practices against national groups... We will eliminate distinctions between native-born and naturalized citizens. We want no second-class citizens in America."

REPUBLICANS -- No plank.

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Immigration -- Asked Congress in 1953 and 1955 to revise the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 to correct "serious and inequitable restrictions" and "injustices."

Refugees -- Recommended legislation in 1953 to allow 240,000 refugees to enter the U.S. in two years, beyond annual quota of 154,657 established by the Immigration and Nationality Act. Recommended a 10-point program to liberalize the Refugee Relief Act in 1955.

CONGRESS

Immigration -- Took no action to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

Refugees -- Enacted the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 to admit 214,000 refugees to the U.S. in three years, without regard to annual immigration quotas. The measure was supported by most Republicans in both chambers and by a bare majority of Senate Democrats. The majority of House Democrats was opposed. Congress did not act in 1955 on the President's 10-point plan to liberalize the refugee law. Operation of the Refugee Relief Act was investigated.

Continued, and in most cases increased, appropriations for contributions to international and United Nations programs for relief and resettlement of refugees and escapees. Both parties backed the appropriations, which were incorporated in mutual security money bills.

VOTES

Admit 217,000 refugees to U.S. in three years, without regard to immigration quotas. Passed.*

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	88	132
AGAINST	111	74

Admit 209,000 refugees to U.S. in three years, without regard to immigration quotas. Passed.*

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1953: FOR	24	38
AGAINST	22	8

* Differences in the two bills later were compromised at 214,000.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 156, 241ff, Vol. X, 1954, p. 167ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 235ff, 312ff.

Asia

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We urge continued effort, by every honorable means, to bring about a fair and effective peace settlement in Korea in accordance with the principles of the United Nations' charter...In the subcontinent of South Asia, we pledge continuing support for...India and Pakistan...We welcome free Japan as a friendly neighbor...Our military and economic assistance to the Nationalist government of China on Formosa...will be continued...America's security pacts with Japan and with the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand are indispensable steps toward the comprehensive mutual security arrangements in that area."

REPUBLICANS -- "With foresight, the Korean War would never have happened...The supreme goal of our foreign policy will be an honorable and just peace. We dedicate ourselves to wage peace and to win it...We shall end neglect of the Far East which Stalin has long identified as the road to victory over the West. We shall make it clear that we have no intention to sacrifice the East to gain time for the West."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Korea -- President-elect Eisenhower went to Korea to survey the situation before his inauguration. An armistice, dividing control of the Korean peninsula between Communist and non-Communist forces, was signed July 27, 1953. Negotiations for a permanent peace treaty and unification of North and South Korea did not succeed.

Nationalist China -- Announced in 1953 that the U.S. Navy would no longer block any Nationalist Chinese attacks on the China mainland. Signed a Mutual Defense Treaty with the Republic of China in 1954. Asked Congress in 1955 to authorize employment of U.S. armed forces to protect Formosa, the Pescadores, and related positions.

Defense Treaties -- Signed a Mutual Defense Treaty with the Republic of Korea in 1953. Signed the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty with Australia, New Zealand, France, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and the United Kingdom in 1954.

Economic and Military Aid -- Increased the share of new mutual security funds allotted to the Far East and the Pacific. Allotted funds for defense of Formosa, South Korea, and anti-Communist forces in Indo-China -- before the cease-fire in July, 1954.

CONGRESS

Nationalist China -- Adopted a resolution in 1955 authorizing the President to employ U.S. armed forces to protect Formosa, the Pescadores, and "related positions and territories." The Senate rejected attempts to narrow the resolution's scope. The Senate approved ratification of the Mutual Defense Treaty with the Republic of China. Congress went on record annually from 1953 through 1955 in opposition to admission of Communist China to the United Nations. All these measures were approved with bipartisan support.

Defense Treaties -- The Senate consented to ratification of the Korean Mutual Defense Treaty in 1954 with an "understanding" that it applied only to South Korean territory brought "lawfully" under control of that Republic. The Senate approved ratification of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty in 1955. Each treaty was supported by both parties.

VOTES

Authorize the President to use U.S. armed forces to protect Formosa, the Pescadores, and "related positions and territories." Passed.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	42	43
AGAINST	2	1
House, 1955: FOR	225	185
AGAINST	1	2

Confine President's authority to the protection of Formosa and the Pescadores (eliminating reference to "related positions and territories"). Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	12	1
AGAINST	32	42

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 156ff, 160, 218ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 167ff, 275ff, 281ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 235ff, 277ff, 280-82, 301ff.

Europe

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We encourage the economic and political unity of free Europe and the increasing solidarity of the nations of the North Atlantic Community...We are determined that Germany shall remain free...We sympathize with the German people's wish for unity and will continue to do everything we can by peaceful means to overcome the Kremlin's obstruction of that rightful aim...We will not abandon the once-free peoples of Central and Eastern Europe..."

REPUBLICANS -- "In Western Europe we shall use our friendly influence...for ending the political and economic divisions which alone prevent that vital area from being strong on its own right...We shall encourage and aid the development of collective security forces there, as elsewhere, so as to end the Soviet power to intimidate directly or by satellites..."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

European Unity -- Supported 1954 agreements providing for creation of a Western European Union to establish military limitations and integration of Western Europe's armed forces.

Germany -- Signed treaties in 1954 to end the occupation of West Germany, restore its sovereignty, and bring it into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. At the July, 1955, Big Four conference in Geneva, the President said "Germany should be reunited under a government freely chosen (by the Germans) and under conditions that would provide security both for nations of the East...and West..."

Austria -- Signed a treaty in 1955 to end the occupation of Austria and restore its sovereignty.

Military and Economic Aid -- Reduced mutual security funds allotted to Europe for defense support and technical and economic aid. Reduced the share of direct military aid funds allotted to Europe -- shifting the emphasis to Asia -- after fiscal 1954.

CONGRESS

Germany -- Adopted a resolution in 1953 urging free elections in East Germany and German unification. The Senate in 1955 approved ratification of treaties to end the occupation of West Germany and to bring it into NATO. Both parties supported the treaties and the German unification resolution.

Austria -- The Senate in 1955 approved -- with bipartisan support -- the treaty ending the occupation of Austria and restoring its sovereignty.

Communist-Satellites -- The Senate rejected -- on a bipartisan vote -- a resolution demanding a Big Four pledge to discuss the status of Communist satellites at the July, 1955, Geneva conference. The Senate then unanimously adopted a resolution expressing the "hope" that rights of self-government would be restored to the enslaved peoples of Europe and Asia.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 156ff, 218ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 167ff, 275ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 235ff, 283ff, 285, 301ff, 311ff.

Middle East

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We favor the development of integrated security arrangements for the Middle East and other assistance to help safeguard the independence of the countries in the area...continued assistance to Israel...support (for) the tripartite declaration of May, 1950, to encourage Israel and the Arab states to settle their differences by direct negotiation. We pledge aid to the Arab states to enable them to develop their economic resources and raise the living standards of their people... (and) support measures for the relief and reintegration of the Palestine refugees..."

REPUBLICANS -- "...the state of Israel appeals to our deepest humanitarian instincts. We shall continue our

friendly interest in this...undertaking. We shall put our influence at the service of peace between Israel and the Arab states, and we shall cooperate to bring economic and social stability to that area."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Arab-Israel Conflict -- Offered in 1955 to participate in an international guarantee of the Arab-Israel borders if the opposing sides first would come to terms on frontier adjustment and refugee repatriation or resettlement. Suggested an international loan, with U.S. participation, to enable Israel to compensate Arab refugees. Opposed Communist sale of arms to Egypt; offered to consider sale of U.S. arms in the Middle East for "legitimate self-defense," but not for "an arms competition." Supported United Nations efforts to halt fighting.

Economic and Military Aid -- Earmarked millions of dollars in mutual security funds for aid to the Middle East and Africa, including non-military aid to both Israel and the Arab nations.

CONGRESS

Palestine Refugees -- Voted annual contributions -- with bipartisan support -- to the United Nations program for relief and rehabilitation of Arabs who had lived in Israel.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 156ff, 218ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 167ff, 275ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 235ff, 301ff.

Western Hemisphere

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "In the Western Hemisphere, we pledge ourselves to continue the policy of the good neighbor...to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with our Latin American allies..."

REPUBLICANS -- "Our ties with the sister republics of the Americas will be strengthened."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Expanded U.S. technical cooperation and economic aid programs in Latin America to the highest level since the beginning of the mutual security program.

Asked Congress in 1955 to provide additional funds to accelerate completion of the Inter-American Highway.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles sponsored the Caracas Declaration of Solidarity adopted by the Organization of American States in March, 1954. The Declaration warned that interference in the Western Hemisphere by the international Communist movement would constitute a threat to the peace of the hemisphere and would require consultation and action.

CONGRESS

Provided funds in 1955 for completion of the Inter-American Highway under an accelerated three-year program. Both parties supported acceleration.

Adopted a resolution expressing support of the Caracas Declaration of Solidarity. The resolution, adopted during a June, 1954, uprising against the Communist-influenced government in Guatemala, was supported by a majority of Democrats and Republicans.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 156ff, 218ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 167ff, 275ff, 285ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 235ff, 301ff, 309ff.

LABOR

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We strongly advocate the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act...We advocate legislation that will enable the President to deal fairly and effectively with cases where a breakdown in collective bargaining seriously threatens the national safety or welfare...We pledge to continue our efforts so that government programs...shall prove a means of assuring minimum wages, hours, and protection to workers consistent with present-day progress."

REPUBLICANS -- "...we favor the retention of the Taft-Hartley Act...We urge the adoption of such amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act as time and experience show to be desirable, and which further protect the rights of labor, management and the public."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Taft-Hartley Act -- Asked Congress in 1954 and 1955 to amend the Taft-Hartley Act "to further the basic objectives" of the law. Proposed in 1954 machinery for secret strike ballots under government auspices.

Minimum Wage -- Asked Congress in 1955 to increase the national minimum wage from 75 to 90 cents an hour and to extend coverage.

Hours of Work -- Proposed in 1955 establishment of standards for overtime pay for work done under federal contract or with federal aid.

CONGRESS

Taft-Hartley Act -- The Senate killed, through recommitment, a 1954 bill to amend the Taft-Hartley Act along lines suggested by the President. Democrats voted unanimously for recommitment. Only three Republicans joined them. Congress made no attempt to amend the Act in 1955.

Minimum Wage -- Raised the national minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1 per hour. Coverage of the law was not extended. Both parties backed the 1955 law.

Hours of Work -- Took no action on 1955 bills to revise the "Eight-Hour Laws."

VOTES

Recommit (kill) bill to revise the Taft-Hartley Act along lines recommended by the President. Recommended.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR		
recommitment (against bill)	46	3
AGAINST		
recommitment (for bill)	0	42

Increase minimum wage to \$1 per hour. Passed.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR	192	170
AGAINST	29	25

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanac, Vol. X, 1954, pp. 300ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 321ff.

MILITARY AND VETERANS National Defense

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "The Democratic party will continue to stand unequivocally for strong, balanced defense forces for this country -- land, sea and air...We will continue to support the expansion and maintenance of the military and civil defense forces required for our national security...We reject the...view of those who say we cannot afford the expense and effort necessary to defend ourselves."

REPUBLICANS -- "...we should develop with utmost speed a force-in-being...of such power as to deter sudden attack or promptly and decisively defeat it...This defense...requires the quickest possible development...of completely adequate air power and the simultaneous readiness of coordinated air, land and sea forces...with atomic energy weapons in abundance...We shall see to it that our military services are adequately supported in all ways required, including manpower, to perform their appropriate tasks...We shall review our entire preparedness program...strip it clean of waste, lack of coordination, inertia and conflict between the services."

Performance

The Administration progressively reduced the defense budget and Congress cut appropriations still further, but national security programs continued to account for about two-thirds of all federal spending. Spending for the Air Force and for atomic energy increased, while total military manpower and funds for the Army and Navy were cut. The President emphasized "effective nuclear-air retaliatory power" as the key to defense policy. Cut-backs were criticized by Democrats.

ADMINISTRATION

Defense Policy -- Proposed a national security program planned "on a long-term basis...(to) maintain essential military strength over an indefinite period of

time without impairing the basic soundness of the United States economy." Rejected the concept of pointing toward a fixed date of maximum danger. Emphasized development of "nuclear-air retaliatory power...as the principal deterrent to military aggression."

Defense Spending -- Spending for defense, compared to the \$43.6 billion spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased 8 percent to \$40.3 billion
 Fiscal 1955, decreased 19 percent to \$35.5 billion
 Fiscal 1956, decreased 22 percent to \$34 billion (estimated).

Army, Navy Air Force -- Progressively increased the portion of defense funds spent on the Air Force and cut expenditures for the Army and Navy. Net budget expenditures for defense activities of the three services, by fiscal years, in billions of dollars:

	1953	1954	1955 (est.)	1956 (est.)
Army	\$16.2	\$12.9	\$ 8.9	\$8.85
Navy	11.9	11.3	9.8	9.7
Air Force	15.1	15.7	15.2	15.6

National Security -- Total spending for defense, atomic energy, military foreign aid, and stockpiling, compared to the \$50.3 billion spent in fiscal 1953, when national security accounted for 68 percent of the budget:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$46.5 billion; 69 percent of budget
 Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$40.4 billion; 63 percent of budget
 Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$38.7 billion (estimated); 61 percent of budget.

Atomic Energy -- Increased spending for atomic energy programs from \$1.8 billion in fiscal 1953 to an estimated \$1.9 billion in fiscal 1956 -- more than was spent in any previous year.

Manpower -- Requested extension of the draft and enactment of a national reserve plan designed to maintain a ready reserve of 2.9 million men. Active-duty strength of the armed forces, compared to the average of 3.7 million men in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to 3.4 million
 Fiscal 1955, decreased to 3.2 million
 Fiscal 1956, decreased to 2.9 million (estimated).

CONGRESS

Defense Funds -- Regular appropriations for defense, compared to the \$46.6 billion appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$34.4 billion; 15 percent below President's request
 Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$28.8 billion, 4 percent below request
 Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$31.9 billion; 1 percent below request.

Democratic-led attempts to increase Air Force funds for fiscal 1954 and Army funds for fiscal 1955 were rejected.

Manpower -- Generally approved annual Defense Department reductions of the active-duty strength of the armed forces, but in 1955 provided for 22,000 more Marines than the Administration had requested. Extended the draft for four years in 1955. Enacted a national reserve plan in 1955; the compromise was not expected to provide the 2.9-million-man reserve pool requested by the President.

Atomic Energy -- Reduced annual appropriations below the amount appropriated for fiscal 1953. (Expenditures increased, despite cuts in appropriations, because money was available from previous years.)

VOTES

Increase Air Force funds by \$1.2 billion. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	156	5
AGAINST	33	196

Increase funds for purchase of aircraft by \$400 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1953: FOR	37	0
AGAINST	9	46

Increase army funds by \$350.5 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	37	1
AGAINST	10	40

Increase Marine Corps funds by \$46 million. Accepted.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	37	3
AGAINST	2	37

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 136ff, 145ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 153ff, 158ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 219ff, 227ff, 329ff, 334ff.

Veterans

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We pledge...to continue and improve the national program of benefits for veterans and their families, to provide the best possible medical care and hospitalization for the disabled veteran, and to help provide every veteran an opportunity to be a productive and responsible citizen with an assured place in the civilian community...We pledge...to provide special housing aids to veterans and their families."

REPUBLICANS -- "...we propose that the aid and compensation given to veterans of previous wars be extended to veterans of the Korean conflict...compensation be fairly and adequately adjusted to meet changes in the cost of living...aid be given to veterans, particularly disabled veterans, to obtain suitable employment, by providing training and education, and through strict compliance with veterans' preference laws in federal service...The

Veterans Administration should be equipped to provide and maintain medical and hospital care of the highest possible standard for all eligible veterans."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Pensions and Compensation -- Federal expenditures for veterans' pensions and compensation, compared to the \$2,420,000,000 spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$2,482,000,000

Fiscal 1955, increased to \$2,678,000,000

Fiscal 1956, increased to \$2,798,000,000 (estimated).

The President in 1955 established a Commission on Veterans' Pensions to recommend "modernization" and "clarification of their (benefits') relationship to government social insurance and family protection programs."

Readjustment Benefits -- Federal expenditures for veterans' readjustment benefits -- principally for education, training, and unemployment compensation -- compared to the \$797 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$704 million

Fiscal 1955, increased to \$812 million

Fiscal 1956, increased to \$941 million (estimated.).

The President proclaimed Jan. 31, 1955, as the deadline for accrual of eligibility for certain Korean veterans' benefits. Congress later extended some of these deadlines.

Hospital and Medical Care -- Federal expenditures for veterans' hospital and medical care, including costs of hospital construction, compared to the \$757 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$783 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$733 million

Fiscal 1956, increased to \$805 million (estimated).

Housing -- New commitments for VA direct and guaranteed loans to veterans -- mainly for housing -- compared to the \$2.9 billion committed in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$3.5 billion

Fiscal 1955, increased to \$5.2 billion (estimated).

Fiscal 1956, increased to \$4.9 billion (estimated).

The VA in 1953 increased interest rates on guaranteed home loans to veterans from 4 to 4.5 percent. The President asked Congress in 1955 to extend the VA direct home loan program until July, 1957.

CONGRESS

Pensions and Compensation -- Enacted, with bipartisan support, two 1954 bills increasing pensions for disabled veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.

Readjustment Benefits -- Extended, with bipartisan support, deadlines for certain veterans' education, training, and unemployment benefits.

Hospital and Medical Care -- Rejected 1953 attempts to authorize the VA to investigate a veteran's affidavit of

inability to pay hospital costs for non-service-connected disabilities. VA would have been permitted to deny the veteran free hospitalization upon determination that he could pay. A majority of Democrats, joined by a few Republicans, voted against the provisions.

Housing -- Action, with bipartisan support, on veterans' housing:

Extended through June, 1957, VA authority to make direct loans for homes and farmhouses to veterans unable to obtain private loans on equivalent terms.

Authorized \$150 million a year to finance the direct-loan program.

Raised maximum interest rates on direct loans to veterans from 4 to 4.5 percent in 1953, matching the VA rate increase on guaranteed loans.

Authorized in 1955 direct loans to veterans to buy farms with farmhouses for personal residence use.

Authorized in 1955 loan guarantees and insurance for construction, purchase, or repair of farm housing on the same terms as residential housing.

Extended to Korean veterans the same preference in occupancy of public housing as had been afforded to veterans of World War II.

Extended farm housing, construction, and improvement loan benefits to Korean veterans in 1953.

Veterans' Preference Laws -- Amendments to the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, enacted in 1953 with bipartisan support:

Required veterans to score passing grades on examinations in order to attain placement on federal job registers.

Excluded non-veterans from examinations for federal apprentice jobs as long as veterans were available; authorized the President to exclude non-veterans from competition for other government jobs.

Required placement of veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities of 10 percent or more at the top of civil service job registers if they pass examinations.

Veterans Administration -- Total appropriations for VA activities, compared to the \$4,157,000,000 appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$4,199,000,000.

Fiscal 1955, increased to \$4,195,000,000.

Fiscal 1956, increased to \$4,466,000,000.

VOTE

Delete provisions of bill to authorize the VA to deny a veteran free hospitalization for non-service-connected disabilities if the VA determined he could pay. Accepted (provisions killed).

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR (against provisions)	177	39
AGAINST (for provisions)	15	164

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanac, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 145ff, 268, 269, 273; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 158ff, 179ff, 318, 319; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 207ff, 333, 345ff.

MISC. AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Loyalty and Security

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "The loyalty program of President Truman has served effectively to prevent infiltration by subversive elements and to protect honest and loyal public servants against unfounded and malicious attacks."

REPUBLICANS -- "We will overhaul loyalty and security programs...We pledge fair but vigorous enforcement of laws to safeguard our country from subversion and disloyalty."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Federal Employee Security -- The President issued Executive Order 10450 on April 27, 1953, to revise the loyalty program established by former President Truman. The new order provided for dismissal of all persons whose employment was not "clearly consistent with the national security." The order classified as "risks" heavy drinkers, sexual perverts, and loose talkers, as well as suspected subversives. Investigations were required for any employee not previously investigated, for new applicants, and for workers previously examined and cleared under the superseded program. Department and agency heads were authorized to discharge employees summarily in the interests of national security. The Civil Service Commission's Loyalty Review Board was replaced by hearing boards of three federal officials drawn from outside the accused employee's department.

Security Separations -- The Administration announced that, by Sept. 29, 1955, 9,270 employees had been separated from government service under terms of the Eisenhower program. Of the total, 3,586 were dismissed and 5,684 resigned. The breakdown:

2,345 with information in their files "indicating, in various degrees, subversive activities, subversive associations, or membership in subversive organizations"

837 with information indicating sexual perversion

2,983 with information indicating conviction of felonies or misdemeanors

5,195 with information of "any other type within the purview...of Executive Order 10450, as amended."

Some employees were in more than one category. Democrats challenged the claims as distorted.

Anti-Subversion Legislation -- President Eisenhower in 1954 transmitted legislative recommendations proposed by Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., to combat subversion.

CONGRESS

Ban on Communist Party -- Enacted, with only two dissenting votes, a 1954 bill designed to outlaw the Communist Party through revocation of its legal rights and immunities. The bill originally was designed to deny legal standing to Communist-infiltrated labor organiza-

tions. The Senate unanimously accepted an amendment to outlaw the party and make membership a crime. This provision was toned down by the House. As enacted, the law did not make membership a crime, but said the party "should be outlawed."

President's Anti-Subversion Program -- The eight Presidential proposals enacted -- all but one of them in 1954 -- with bipartisan support:

Compel some witnesses in proceedings involving national security to testify, despite claims of guarantees against compulsory self-incrimination, by granting them immunity from prosecution.

Forfeit the nationality (citizenship rights) of persons convicted of conspiring to advocate violent overthrow of the government.

Authorize capital punishment of peacetime -- as well as wartime -- espionage.

Broaden sabotage laws to take account of such techniques as radiological and biological warfare.

Increase penalties for harboring fugitives.

Make bail-jumping in federal cases a crime.

Extend the statute of limitations in certain cases from three to five years.

Reward persons who furnish information on illegal importation, manufacture, or acquisition of atomic materials or weapons; 1955 law.

Congress did not enact six Presidential proposals to:

Broaden requirements for registration of foreign agents.

Broaden requirements for registration of persons trained in sabotage and espionage.

Permit use of wiretap evidence in security cases.

Broaden the definition of perjury.

Bar subversives from private facilities indirectly concerned with defense.

Establish procedures for dissolving Communist-controlled business or labor organizations in a position to affect national security.

Security Study -- Congress in 1955 created a bipartisan 12-member Commission on Government Security to study the entire federal security program and report its findings to Congress by Dec. 31, 1956.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. X, 1954, pp. 37ff, 332-342, 379ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 383ff, 518ff.

Statehood

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We urge immediate statehood for these two territories (Alaska and Hawaii)."

REPUBLICANS -- "We favor immediate statehood for Hawaii...statehood for Alaska under an equitable enabling act...eventual statehood for Puerto Rico."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Asked Congress to grant statehood to Hawaii; said Alaska "should expect to achieve statehood...as the complex problems (of the territory) are resolved."

Submitted no recommendations on statehood for Puerto Rico.

CONGRESS

The House passed a 1953 bill granting statehood to Hawaii. The Senate amended the House bill in 1954 to include Alaska. The amended version died when the House Rules Committee refused to allow the bill to go to a conference committee. The House in 1955 recommit- ted (killed) a bill to grant statehood to both territories. A majority of Republicans generally supported Hawaiian statehood and opposed statehood for Alaska. A majority of Democrats voted to admit both territories at the same time. However, a large minority of House Democrats voted with the Republican majority to kill the joint state- hood measure in 1955. Congress did not consider state- hood for Puerto Rico.

VOTES

Grant statehood to Hawaii. Passed by one chamber.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	97	177
AGAINST	100	37

Add Alaska to Hawaiian statehood bill. Accepted by one chamber.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	42	3
AGAINST	2	41

Grant statehood to both Hawaii and Alaska. Passed by one chamber.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	23	33
AGAINST	19	9

Recommit (kill) bill granting statehood to Hawaii and Alaska. Recommended.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR		
recommittal		
(against bill)	105	113
AGAINST		
recommittal		
(for bill)	107	63

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 301ff, 304ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 394ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 372ff.

Civil Rights

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We will continue our efforts to eradicate discrimination based on race, religion or national origin...We are determined that the federal government shall continue...policies (of) securing equality of treat- ment and opportunity in the nation's armed forces and

the civil service and all areas under federal jurisdiction ...We favor federal legislation...to secure...(1) the right to equal opportunity for employment; (2) the right to security of persons; (3) the right to full and equal partici- pation in the nation's political life, free from arbitrary restraints."

REPUBLICANS -- "...we believe that the federal gov- ernment should take...action (supplementing state action) within its constitutional jurisdiction to oppose discrimina- tion against race, religion or national origin. We will prove our good faith by:...federal action toward the elimination of lynching...federal action toward the elimin- ation of poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting...enacting federal legislation to further just and equitable treatment in the area of discriminatory employment practices."

Performance

The Administration acted against discrimination in areas under federal jurisdiction and successfully argued before the Supreme Court for an end to segregation in public schools. No civil rights legislation was requested by the President or passed by Congress.

ADMINISTRATION

School Segregation -- Urged prohibition of racial segregation in public schools in a brief filed with the Supreme Court in November, 1953.

Fair Employment -- Created the Government Con- tract Committee in 1953 to help prevent hiring and firing discrimination on jobs under federal contracts. Strengthened, by executive order in 1954, the non-discrimination clause in federal contracts. Created the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy in 1955 to prevent discrimination against government employees.

Segregation in Armed Forces -- Continued the eli- mination of segregation. The Defense Department re- ported that, as of August 31, 1954, there were "no longer any all-Negro units in the services." Ordered the Army, Navy, and Air Force to end segregation in all military post schools by Sept. 1, 1955.

Travel Restrictions -- Successfully urged, in a brief filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1954, an end to racial segregation in interstate travel.

CONGRESS

Did not pass any civil rights legislation. A Senate committee reported a bill in 1954 to prohibit discrimina- tion in employment because of race, religion, or ancestry, but the measure was not brought up for debate. The House Rules Committee refused in 1954 to clear for debate a bill to prohibit segregation of passengers in public vehicles in interstate commerce. An amendment to ban segregation in the National Guard was accepted by the House in 1955, but later was omitted in the revised military reserves bill.

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanac, Vol. XI 1955, pp. 334ff.

Government Reorganization

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We pledge our support to continuing reorganization wherever improvements can be made."

REPUBLICANS -- "We pledge a thorough reorganization of the federal government in accordance with the principles set forth in the report of the Hoover Commission."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

President Eisenhower in 1953 and 1954 sent Congress 12 plans to reorganize federal operations.

Key points of the plans:

Established the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to replace the Federal Security Agency. Authorized adaptation of Agriculture Department activities to local conditions and decentralization of administration.

Centralized defense stockpiling operations in a permanent Office of Defense Mobilization.

Shuffled responsibilities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Established the Foreign Operations Administration to take over functions of the Mutual Security Agency, Technical Cooperation Administration, and Institute of Inter-American Affairs; FOA later was abolished and its functions transferred to the State and Defense Departments.

Established an independent United States Information Agency.

Restored membership of the Council of Economic Advisers to three, and expanded the chairman's responsibilities.

Transferred responsibility for payment of direct airline subsidies from the Post Office Department to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Centralized claims operations in a new Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

Divided liquidated Reconstruction Finance Corporation functions among the Export-Import Bank, Small Business Administration, and Housing and Home Finance Agency.

The reorganization proposals were derived primarily from recommendations by the President's Committee on Government Organization, which screened reports by the first Hoover Commission on Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

CONGRESS

Reorganization Plans -- Allowed all 12 of the President's reorganization plans to take effect. Efforts to block the Agriculture and Defense Department plans were rejected by roll-call votes. A majority of Democrats voted to disapprove the two plans.

Second Hoover Commission -- Congress enacted, with bipartisan support, a 1953 bill setting up a second Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. The Commission was given

greater powers than its predecessor. It was authorized to recommend changes in government policies and the elimination of duplicating functions, as well as procedural reorganization. The Commission filed its 19th and final report to Congress June 30, 1955. The reports listed about \$8.5 billion in possible savings if Commission recommendations were followed. They included proposals for basic changes in well-intrenched federal policies and programs.

Reorganization Authority -- Congress extended to June 1, 1957, the authority of the President to submit reorganization plans to Congress. Unless vetoed by a constitutional majority (half the full membership plus one) of either house, the plans take effect in 60 days. Both parties supported the extension.

VOTES

Disapprove Agriculture Department reorganization plan. Rejected (plan approved).

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR		
(against plan)	127	1
AGAINST		
(for plan)	56	204
Senate, 1953: FOR		
(against plan)	27	1
AGAINST		
(for plan)	11	35

Disapprove Defense Department reorganization plan. Rejected (plan approved).

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR		
(against plan)	96	11
AGAINST		
(for plan)	66	169

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 288-298; Vol. X, 1954, p. 407; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 367ff.

TAXES, ECONOMIC POLICY

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We believe in fair and equitable taxation. We oppose a federal general sales tax. We adhere to the principle of ability to pay...As rapidly as defense requirements permit, we favor reducing taxes, especially for people with lower incomes...We will not imperil our nation's security by making reckless promises to reduce taxes...We pledge continued efforts to the elimination of (tax) loopholes."

REPUBLICANS -- "We advocate...reduction of expenditures by the elimination of waste and extravagance so that the budget ~~must~~ be balanced and a general tax reduction can be made...an immediate study directed toward reallocation of fields of taxation between the federal, state and municipal governments so as to allow greater fiscal freedom to the states and municipalities...(and) a thorough revision and codification of the present hodgepodge of internal revenue laws..."

Performance

About \$7.4 billion in tax reductions took effect during 1953-55. The President requested reductions totaling about \$1.3 billion -- primarily through revision of the tax code. Congress upped the cut to \$2.4 billion. In addition, about \$5 billion in tax reductions took effect as scheduled under 1950 and 1951 revenue laws. Democrats failed in efforts to enact additional cuts in personal income taxes.

ADMINISTRATION

Tax Cuts and Revisions -- Asked Congress in 1954 to overhaul the Internal Revenue Code. The proposed revisions contemplated reduction of individual income taxes by \$585 million and corporation taxes by \$600 million to \$700 million in fiscal 1955. Among the proposed revisions:

- Reduce taxes on income from dividends.
- Increase deductions for medical expenses.
- Allow deductions for some costs of child care.
- Exempt portions of retirement income from taxation.
- Liberalize tax treatment of business expenses for depreciation, research, and development.

Tax Extensions -- Asked Congress to: Extend the excess profits tax, scheduled to expire July 1, 1953, to Jan. 1, 1954.

Extend existing excise tax rates, scheduled for reduction April 1, 1954, to April 1, 1956; maintain annual yield of excise taxes at about \$10 billion.

Extend existing corporation income tax rates, scheduled for reduction from 52 percent to 47 percent on April 1, 1954, to April 1, 1956.

Tax Study -- Asked Congress in 1953 to establish a commission to study federal-state-local government relations, with emphasis on taxation problems.

CONGRESS

Tax Cuts and Revisions -- Enacted the first complete revision of the federal tax code in 75 years, cutting individual taxes \$827 million and corporation taxes \$536 million. Among the 1954 revisions:

- Reduced taxes on income from dividends; the compromise cut these taxes less than the President had proposed.
- Increased deductions for medical expenses.
- Allowed deductions for some costs of child care.
- Eased taxes on retirement income.
- Accelerated depreciation write-offs.

Cut excise taxes \$1 billion in 1954, with bipartisan support.

Took no action to block scheduled cuts of \$3 billion in individual income taxes Jan. 1, 1954; and \$2 billion in corporation excess profits taxes Jan. 1, 1954 -- six months later than the original schedule.

Rejected Democratic attempts to increase personal tax exemptions from \$600 to \$700, instead of cutting taxes on dividend income, in 1954; and to grant individual income tax credits, while extending corporation and excise tax rates for a longer period than the President had recommended, in 1955.

Tax Extensions -- Extended, with bipartisan support: Existing excise tax rates on alcoholic beverages, gasoline, autos, trucks, buses, automotive parts and accessories, and diesel fuel -- scheduled for reduction April 1, 1954 -- to April 1, 1956.

Existing corporation income tax rates -- scheduled for reduction from 52 percent to 47 percent on April 1, 1954 -- to April 1, 1956.

Tax Study -- Established in 1953, with bipartisan support, a Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to study taxation and other problems of federal, state, and local government relations. The Commission, reporting in June, 1955, urged Congress to consider the problems of overlapping federal, state, and local taxes.

Tax Loopholes -- Repealed in 1955, with bipartisan support, so-called "loophole" sections of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code relating to reserves for estimated expenses and prepaid income. The repealed sections could have cost the government as much as \$1 billion in revenue losses, according to the Treasury Department.

VOTES

Increase annual personal income tax exemptions from \$600 to \$700, and delete dividend tax relief. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1954: FOR	193	10
AGAINST	9	201
Senate, 1954: FOR	43	2
AGAINST	4	45

Delete \$20 cut in individual income taxes for each taxpayer and dependent. Rejected (provisions retained in the House bill, but later deleted by the Senate).

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR deletion (against cut)	16	189
AGAINST deletion (for cut)	205	5

Extend existing corporation and excise tax rates 27 months, and cut individual taxes \$20 for heads of households and \$10 for dependents. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	43	1
AGAINST	5	45

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 409ff, 416ff, 422, 438ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 476ff, 495ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 378ff, 419ff, 423ff.

Government Spending

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We believe in keeping government expenditures to the lowest practicable level... We pledge ourselves to a vigilant review of our expenditures in order to reduce them as much as possible."

REPUBLICANS -- "Our goal is a balanced budget, a reduced national debt, an economical administration... We advocate... reduction of expenditures by the elimination of waste and extravagance..."

Performance

Congress reduced appropriations, and federal spending was cut in 1953-55. The deficit decreased, but the budget was not balanced and the national debt was higher than in 1952. The Administration said in 1955 that it might balance the budget by June 30, 1956.

ADMINISTRATION

Spending -- Total net federal expenditures, compared to the \$74.3 billion spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased 9 percent to \$67.8 billion
Fiscal 1955, decreased 13 percent to \$64.5 billion
Fiscal 1956, decreased 14 percent to \$63.8 billion (estimated).

Budget Balance -- The Budget deficit -- the excess of federal expenditures over federal receipts -- compared to the \$9.4 billion deficit in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased 67 percent to \$3.1 billion
Fiscal 1955, decreased 55 percent to \$4.2 billion
Fiscal 1956, decreased 82 percent to \$1.7 billion (estimated).

Secretary of Treasury George M. Humphrey and Budget Director Rowland R. Hughes said in 1955 that the budget could and "should" be balanced by June 30, 1956.

National Debt -- The public (national) debt July 1, 1955, was \$274.4 billion -- 6 percent over the \$259.1 billion debt on July 1, 1952. The President asked Congress in 1953 to increase the statutory ceiling on the debt from \$275 billion to \$290 billion. Congress refused the \$15 billion increase in 1953. The President renewed his request, without specifying the amount, in 1954 and 1955.

CONGRESS

Appropriations -- Total direct appropriations, compared to the \$75.3 billion appropriated in 1952 -- mostly for fiscal 1953, partly for fiscal 1952:

1953, decreased to \$54.5 billion; 8 percent below President Eisenhower's requests and 21 percent below estimates by ex-President Truman
1954, decreased to \$47.6 billion; 5 percent below President's request
1955, decreased to \$53.1 billion; 4 percent below request.

National Debt -- Congress refused the President's request for a \$15 billion permanent increase in the federal debt limit. Despite Democratic opposition, the House passed a 1953 bill granting the increase, but the Senate did not act. Temporary \$6 billion increases -- to \$281 billion -- were granted in 1954 and 1955. Both parties supported the one-year increases.

VOTE

Increase the statutory limit on the public debt from \$275 billion to \$290 billion. Passed by one chamber.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	69	169
AGAINST	125	33

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 130ff, 407ff; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 146ff, 498; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 195ff, 426ff.

Highways

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "In cooperation with state and local governmental units, we will continue to plan, coordinate, finance, and encourage the expansion of our road and highway network, including access roads, for the dual purposes of national defense and efficient motor transportation. We support expansion of farm-to-market roads."

REPUBLICANS -- No plank, other than endorsement of "economically justifiable public works."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Appointed the President's Advisory Committee on a National Highway Program (the "Clay Committee") in 1954, and in 1955 asked Congress to enact a nationwide highway program along the lines recommended by the Committee. The Committee proposed a 10-year, \$101 billion program, with most of the federal share financed through sale of more than \$20 billion in bonds excluded from the national debt. The plan called for federal expenditures of about \$31 billion, most of it for the 40,000-mile interstate highway system.

CONGRESS

Authorized, in 1954, nearly \$2 billion in federal aid to highways -- to be matched by the states -- during fiscal 1956-57. The authorization was the largest federal outlay for highways ever approved. Both parties supported the bill, which increased funds for primary, secondary ("farm-to-market"), and urban roads, and contained the first sizable grant -- \$175 million per year -- for the interstate highway system.

Enacted no national highway legislation in 1955, rejecting the Administration's 10-year, bond-financed program and Democratic-sponsored substitutes. The Senate rejected the Administration's plan for a \$31 billion federal contribution to a \$101 billion program, and then passed a bill to authorize \$12.3 billion for the federal share of a five-year, \$17.3 billion program. The Senate bill generally followed the lines of past road bills, but more than doubled the funds to be allocated. No new financing method was specified. The House rejected both the Administration plan and a Democratic-sponsored bill to authorize a 13-year, \$48.5 billion program. The \$35 billion federal share would have been financed by a 16-year levy of additional taxes on trucks, buses, tires, and fuel.

VOTES

Substitute the Administration's bond-financed highway plan for Democratic-sponsored bills. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	1	30
AGAINST	47	13
House, 1955: FOR	7	186
AGAINST	214	7

Authorize 13-year highway-aid program with federal share financed by increase in taxes on gasoline and other highway-user taxes. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR	94	29
AGAINST	128	164

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. X, 1954, pp. 499ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 431ff.

Power and Water

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We favor sound, progressive development of the nation's land and water resources for flood control, navigation, irrigation, power, drainage, soil conservation...We favor the acceleration of all such projects, including construction of transmission facilities to load centers for wider and more equitable distribution of electric energy at the lowest cost to the consumer with continuing preference to public agencies and REA cooperatives.... The Democratic party...pledges itself to protect (natural) resources from destructive monopoly and exploitation. We pledge the continued full and unified regional development of the water, mineral and other natural resources of the nation."

REPUBLICANS -- "We favor continuous and comprehensive investigations of our water resources and orderly execution of programs approved by the Congress...with immediate priority for those with defense significance, those in critical flood and water-shortage areas, and those substantially completed. We favor greater local participation in the operation and control, and eventual local ownership, of federally sponsored, reimbursable water projects. We vigorously oppose...efforts...in California and elsewhere to undermine state control over water use...and to establish all-powerful federal socialistic valley authorities."

Performance

A decline in federal development of power and water resources during 1953-55 was reflected in reduced expenditures for construction of projects. Congress cut appropriations for federal resource programs and the Administration emphasized a "partnership" policy to encourage non-federal interests to develop resources. The President advocated federal construction of large projects considered beyond the means of local and private groups. He asked Congress to authorize development of the Upper Colorado River Basin and the Fryingpan-Arkansas units. Congress did not comply.

ADMINISTRATION

Resource Policy -- Formulated a "partnership policy" to encourage local public and private interests to develop power and water resources. The policy contemplated federal contributions, when necessary, to pay for features of projects developed for "national purposes, such as flood control," with non-federal payment for other features, such as power. Advocated all-federal construction of projects which, because of "size and complexity, are beyond the means or needs of local public or private enterprise."

Power Marketing Policy -- The Interior Department in 1953 proposed to modify the system by which REA cooperatives and local governments in the Missouri River Basin were guaranteed preference in the purchase of public power. The preference customers were to estimate their future power needs. The Department was to enter long-term contracts to sell to non-preference customers power remaining beyond these estimated needs. Preference customers protested and Congressional hearings were held. The Department revised its policy to limit contracts with non-preference customers to short terms, after which power could be "recaptured" for preference customers.

Resource Spending -- Federal expenditures for construction of facilities related to development of water resources, compared to the \$1 billion spent in fiscal 1952 and again in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$917.8 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$834.9 million (estimated)

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$699.6 million (estimated) -- 33 percent below the fiscal 1952 and 1953 level.

Both multi-purpose and single-purpose projects were included in these totals. Federal expenditures for construction of multi-purpose dams and reservoirs with hydroelectric power facilities, compared to the \$440 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$339.2 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$263.8 million (estimated)

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$246.8 million (estimated).

Flood control works, compared to the \$185 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$111.2 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$121.6 million (estimated)

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$141.3 million (estimated).

Irrigation and water conservation works, compared to the \$89.5 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$79 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$77.3 million (estimated)

Fiscal 1956, increased to \$90.2 million (estimated).

Navigation facilities, compared to the \$52.5 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$33 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$51 million (estimated)

Fiscal 1956, increased to \$93.6 million (estimated).

Power transmission facilities, compared to the \$118.2 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$117 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$94.7 million (estimated)

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$81.4 million (estimated).

Tennessee Valley Authority steam-electric power plants, compared to the \$152.2 million spent in fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, increased to \$238.4 million

Fiscal 1955, increased to \$226.5 million (estimated)

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$43.9 million (estimated).

No funds were spent for beach erosion control during fiscal 1953-55; an estimated \$2.4 million was to be spent in fiscal 1956.

Resource Projects -- Upper Colorado, Fryingpan-Arkansas: Asked Congress to authorize federal development of the Upper Colorado River Basin in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, and the Fryingpan-Arkansas project in Colorado. The President estimated the total cost of the two projects at \$1.1 billion; as amended, the bills carried larger estimates, and the ultimate cost remained uncertain.

St. Lawrence: Asked Congress in 1954 to authorize federal construction, in cooperation with Canada, of a St. Lawrence Seaway navigation project, at an estimated cost to the U.S. of \$105 million. The Federal Power Commission in 1954 approved construction by the New York State Power Authority of a power project in the International Rapids section of the St. Lawrence River.

Hells Canyon: The Interior Department withdrew its opposition -- filed during the Truman Administration -- to private construction of three dams at Hells Canyon on the Snake River on the Idaho-Oregon border. FPC in 1955 approved applications by the Idaho Power Company, a private firm, to build the three dams. Advocates of public power favored federal construction of a single high dam at the site.

Niagara: Asked Congress in 1954 to authorize non-federal development of a power project at Niagara Falls.

Partnership Projects: Requested authorizations in 1954 and 1955 to pay the federal share of costs for construction of a series of partnership water resource projects in cooperation with local public and private groups.

Dixon-Yates -- The President in 1954 ordered the Atomic Energy Commission to contract with the Dixon-Yates combine for private-enterprise construction of a \$107 million generating plant to feed power into the Tennessee Valley Authority system to supply Memphis, Tenn. The power was to replace an equivalent amount supplied by TVA to the AEC. The Administration in 1955 asked Congress to appropriate funds for transmission lines to link the proposed Dixon-Yates plant to TVA. Opponents of the contract challenged it on the basis of cost to the federal government, financing provisions, and effect on future expansion of TVA. Memphis announced plans in June, 1955, to build its own power plant. In July, 1955, the Administration ordered the Dixon-Yates contract canceled.

CONGRESS

Partnership Program -- The House and Senate passed, with bipartisan support, different versions of a 1955 bill to authorize federal cooperation in non-federal reclamation projects and participation by non-federal agencies in federal projects, but the measure was not reported from the conference committee.

Power Marketing Policy -- Banned the use of Southwestern Power Administration funds to carry out lease-purchase contracts to pay REA cooperatives in Missouri and Oklahoma for the use of generating and transmission facilities. Opponents said the contracts would require the federal government to pay for the use of facilities which had been constructed with funds it had lent to the cooperatives. Supporters said repudiation of the contracts would jeopardize power requirements of preference customers. The 1953 ban was repealed in 1955, when Congress ordered reactivation of the contracts without the lease-purchase provisions.

Dixon-Yates -- Affirmed, in 1954, the Atomic Energy Commission's authority to contract for private power to replace TVA power supplied to AEC. Appropriated \$6.5 million in 1955 for transmission lines to link the proposed Dixon-Yates plant to TVA. The appropriation was to lapse if Memphis decided to build its own power plant -- as it did.

Navigation and Flood Control -- Enacted in 1954, with bipartisan support, an omnibus authorization for construction of 184 flood control, navigation, and beach erosion control projects. The measure was the first omnibus authorization in this field since 1950. Authorized in 1955 a \$15 million emergency fund for protection and repair of flood control works, for flood fighting, and for rescue operations.

Appropriations -- Direct appropriations for TVA and for the Bonneville, Southeastern, and Southwestern Power Administrations, compared to the \$416.6 million appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$236.3 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$153.9 million

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$50.8 million.

Appropriations for navigation and flood control projects by the Army Corps of Engineers, compared to the \$562 million appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$423.2 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$443.4 million

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$559.5 million.

Total direct appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation -- which constructs and operates water and power facilities -- compared to the \$206.4 million appropriated for fiscal 1953:

Fiscal 1954, decreased to \$143.7 million

Fiscal 1955, decreased to \$163.2 million

Fiscal 1956, decreased to \$180 million.

Resource Projects -- Upper Colorado: The Senate in 1955 passed, with bipartisan support, a bill to authorize \$1.1 billion for a federal Upper Colorado River Basin project, but the House did not act. Authorization bills were reported to both House and Senate in 1954 but did not reach floor votes.

Fryingpan-Arkansas: The Senate passed a federal authorization bill in 1954, with bipartisan support, but the House killed the measure when a majority of Democrats voted against consideration. There was no floor action on an authorization in 1955.

St. Lawrence: Federal construction, in cooperation with Canada, of the St. Lawrence Seaway navigation project was authorized in 1954, with bipartisan support. The measure established a corporation to sell \$105 million in revenue bonds to the U.S. Treasury.

Hells Canyon: No action was taken on a Democratic-sponsored bill in 1955 to authorize federal construction of a \$500 million multi-purpose dam.

Niagara: The House in 1953 passed, despite opposition by a majority of Democrats, a bill to authorize private development of hydroelectric power at Niagara Falls. The Senate did not act on the House bill or on its own 1954 bill to let the Federal Power Commission decide whether power at Niagara should be developed by the federal government, by New York state, or by private industry.

Trinity River: Congress in 1955 authorized, despite opposition by a majority of House Republicans, federal construction of a \$225 million project at the Trinity River division of the Central Valley project in California.

Partnership Projects: Congress in 1954 authorized, with bipartisan support, non-federal development of projects at Priest Rapids, Wash.; Coosa River, Ala.; and Markham Ferry, Okla. Federal payment for flood control and navigation features of these projects was authorized. The Senate rejected a Democratic-sponsored amendment to require preference to rural cooperatives and municipalities in interstate sale of power from Priest Rapids. Several partnership projects proposed by the Administration were not authorized.

Monopoly -- A Senate subcommittee in January, 1955, charged that "private monopoly" was trying to "destroy public competition in the power business." Hearings on mergers in the power industry were held in 1955.

VOTES

Authorize federal development of a \$1.1 billion Upper Colorado River Basin Project. Passed by one chamber.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1955: FOR	31	27
AGAINST	15	8

Motion to consider bill to authorize federal construction of the \$173 million Fryingpan-Arkansas project. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1954: FOR	50	137
AGAINST	133	62

Authorize U.S. cooperation with Canada in construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway project. Passed.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	25	25
AGAINST	18	15
House, 1954: FOR	96	144
AGAINST	94	64

Authorize federal construction of a \$225 million project on the Trinity River division of the Central Valley project in California. Passed.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1955: FOR	154	76
AGAINST	54	99

Increase funds for TVA from \$129.6 million to \$141.8 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	14	8
AGAINST	23	33

Require that rural cooperatives and municipalities be given preference in interstate sales of power from Priest Rapids. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1954: FOR	27	1
AGAINST	5	40

Authorize private development of power facilities at Niagara Falls, subject to approval of the FPC. Passed by one chamber.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	80	182
AGAINST	101	18

Increase the continuing fund for the Southwestern Power Administration from \$150,000 to \$3.7 million, and funds for the Bonneville Power Administration from \$38.3 million to \$42.7 million. Rejected.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	155	11
AGAINST	25	187

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 134ff, 145ff, 148ff, 431, 432, 448; Vol. X, 1954, pp. 151ff, 158ff, 161ff, 490ff, 507, 508, 511, 512, 514, 534ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 227ff, 442ff, 446ff, 447ff, 449ff, 452ff, 460ff, 545ff.

Controls

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- "We pledge continuance of workable controls so long as the emergency requires them...fair and impartial enforcement of controls and their removal as quickly as economic conditions allow. We strongly urge continued federal rent control in critical defense areas and in the many other localities still suffering from a substantial shortage of adequate housing at reasonable prices."

REPUBLICANS -- "We shall remove...injurious price and wage controls...We will oppose federal rent control except in those areas where the expansion of defense production has been accompanied by critical housing shortages...We believe in combatting inflation by encouraging full production of goods and food, and not through a program of restrictions."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

Rent -- Asked Congress in 1953 to end federal rent control "as soon as practicable," but recommended that controls in defense areas with serious housing shortages be continued beyond June 30, 1953.

Prices and Wages -- Ordered, in February, 1953, termination of all controls over wages and salaries, and removal of price controls in seven steps.

Defense Materials -- Asked Congress in 1953 and 1955 to extend the Defense Production Act, authorizing the federal government to ration scarce defense materials to industry.

CONGRESS

Rent -- Ended, with bipartisan support, federal rent controls in all but critical defense housing areas effective July 31, 1953, and extended controls in "critical" areas through April 30, 1954.

Prices and Wages -- The Senate in 1953 voted to authorize the President to impose a 90-day freeze on prices, wages, and rents if Congress should declare war or a national emergency. The authority was included in a bill to extend the Defense Production Act. A majority of Senate Democrats blocked attempts to eliminate the freeze authority, but the House rejected the provisions in an unrecorded vote. A Senate-House conference committee killed the freeze authority.

Defense Materials -- Extended through June 30, 1956, Defense Production Act authorizations for the federal government to allocate scarce defense materials to industry. Both parties supported the extensions, voted in 1953 and 1955.

VOTES

Delete standby wage, price, and rent controls from Defense Production Act extension. Rejected (provisions retained), but the final version of the bill omitted these controls.

	Democrats	Republicans
Senate, 1953: FOR deletion (against controls)	2	24
AGAINST deletion (for controls)	37	23

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanacs, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 400ff, 405ff; Vol. XI, 1955, pp. 472ff.

Tidelands

Platforms

DEMOCRATS -- No plank.

REPUBLICANS -- "We favor restoration to the states of their rights to all lands and resources beneath navigable inland and offshore waters within their historic boundaries."

Performance

ADMINISTRATION

President Eisenhower asked Congress in 1953 to confirm the states' title to submerged land within their historic coastal boundaries -- known as "tidelands" -- and to reaffirm federal jurisdiction over submerged land in the continental shelf beyond state boundaries.

The Supreme Court in 1955 rejected a request by Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., for a ruling that Louisiana's boundary lay three miles from its shore, rather than 10.5 miles.

CONGRESS

Surrendered to coastal states title to submerged lands and natural resources within their historic boundaries. The 1953 bill also proclaimed federal jurisdiction over the resources of submerged lands beyond the states' offshore boundaries. A majority of Senate Democrats, joined by a few Republicans, opposed the bill. They called it a "giveaway" to coastal states of resources belonging to the entire nation.

Congress then enacted a separate bill reaffirming exclusive federal control over submerged lands in the continental shelf beyond historic state boundaries. The measure authorized the U.S. to lease the lands to private industry and assigned to the federal government certain royalties from oil, gas, and sulphur production. Both parties supported the bill on original passage, but a majority of Senate Democrats opposed the version that emerged from conference. The conference committee deleted a Senate amendment to earmark federal revenues from the continental shelf for defense during the national emergency and for aid to education thereafter.

VOTES

Confirm the states' title to submerged lands and natural resources within their historic boundaries. Passed.

	Democrats	Republicans
House, 1953: FOR	97	188
AGAINST	89	18
Senate, 1953: FOR	21	35
AGAINST	25	9

REFERENCES -- CQ Almanac, Vol. IX, 1953, pp. 388ff, 397ff.

WHAT WILL CONGRESS DO IN 1956?

The second session of the 84th Congress will be busy. Elections for the Presidency and for Congress will hinge to a large extent on the record written by the Senate and the House. The Republican Administration and the Democratic-controlled Congress will struggle to mold vote-getting programs.

Congressional Quarterly's round-up of the highlights that will make the headlines in 1956:

Agriculture

PRICE SUPPORTS

The House passed a bill (HR 12) in 1955 to restore rigid farm price supports at 90 percent of parity for five basic commodities. Senate action was deferred to 1956. If rigid supports are not restored, the five basics will be supported on a flexible scale ranging from 75 to 90 percent of parity, as advocated by the Administration.

Democratic opposition to flexible supports will draw the lines for the clearest party-line split on a major 1956 issue. Spokesmen for specific commodity interests will try to raise support levels and substitute mandatory for discretionary supports.

SOIL BANK

Plans to establish a soil bank have picked up bipartisan strength, although some details of the various versions have not been reconciled. Basically, the federal government would pay farmers to retire acreage from commercial production and to plant grass and trees. In theory, production of surpluses would be reduced, fertility would be conserved, and farmers would receive cash to tide them over the adjustment.

SURPLUS DISPOSAL

An attempt to work off surpluses by intensifying efforts to expand exports and by liberalizing authority for donations to the needy will be made. Congress will consider a food stamp plan. Two-price plans would expand exports by selling wheat, cotton, and possibly rice at a lower price in the competitive foreign market than in the U.S.

PRODUCTION CONTROLS, PAYMENTS

Intensive cultivation has cancelled out much of the effect of production controls. Farmers cut back acreage, but increase yield per acre. Experts have been studying the feasibility of limiting wheat farmers, for example, to marketing a specified number of bushels -- instead of allowing them to sell as much as they can grow on a specified number of acres.

Orthodox farm supports peg prices at a specified level. Some Democrats advocate production payments,

would allow the free market to set prices. Cash subsidies by the federal government would compensate the farmer for the difference between the average market price and the support level.

LOW-INCOME FARMERS

Congress may expand aid for marginal farmers who produce so little that high price supports would fail to raise their income to an adequate level. Proposals would liberalize credit, aid efficient production, and encourage shifts to industrial work off the farm.

Presidential request in 1955 still awaiting final Congressional action: Expand loans for low-income farmers.

Appropriations

Congress again will try to reconcile the demand of taxpayers for economy in government with demands for support of expensive federal programs. Appropriations for defense and for foreign aid probably will provoke the greatest controversy.

The Administration will try to balance the budget. The ceiling on the public debt will revert from \$281 billion to \$275 billion, unless the temporary increase is extended. But already programs have been announced which will make the request hard to fill. Tentative increases made by Administration leaders so far: Defense, \$1 billion; foreign aid, \$2.7 billion (not all to be spent in fiscal 1957); health research, \$25 million.

Other programs may call for additional expenditures: highways, \$1.8 billion; agriculture, \$500 million to \$1 billion; education, "a considerable increase" over the \$67 million yearly proposed in 1955.

Education and Welfare

SCHOOLS

Both parties will press for funds to help states and local communities build and operate schools. President Eisenhower recommended a limited aid program in 1955, pending recommendations of the White House Conference on Education which since has called for substantial federal aid. A House committee approved a larger program, reporting the bill (HR 7535) to the floor too late for 1955 action.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Senate will take up a 1955 House bill (HR 7225) to liberalize Social Security by paying Old-Age and Survivors Insurance benefits to disabled workers, lowering the eligibility age for women, and extending coverage to most occupational groups still excluded.

HOUSING

Authorization for construction of low-rent public housing will expire in 1956. Extension probably will be attempted, leading to renewal of controversy over how many units should be built. Congress also may act on slum clearance and urban renewal.

HEALTH

The Administration may renew its recommendation for a health reinsurance program under which the federal government would encourage private companies to expand coverage in risky fields.

Federal spending for medical research and hospital construction may be increased, and Congress may extend the polio vaccine program.

Proposals to tighten federal regulation of traffic in narcotics will emerge from committee hearings.

Major Presidential requests in 1955 still awaiting final Congressional approval:

Health

- Establish health reinsurance.

- Establish a mortgage loan insurance program for private construction of health facilities.

- Authorize federal-state matching funds for medical care of public assistance recipients.

- Provide separate funds for extension of federal-state programs serving mothers, crippled children, and children requiring special health services.

- Authorize funds for special projects to develop better medical care techniques for such persons.

- Unify Public Health Service grants-in-aid in one program.

- Establish separate funds for the extension and improvement of existing state health services.

- Authorize funds for special projects to develop improved techniques for public health programs.

- Strengthen grant-in-aid programs for the improvement of mental health.

- Authorize new grants for projects to improve the administration and care in mental institutions.

- Authorize federal grants to aid practical nurse training.

- Authorize Public Health Service graduate and training programs.

- Set up PHS training programs for graduate nurses.

- Improve survivor benefits of the PHS Commissioned Corps.

- Improve the status of the PHS Commissioned Corps.

- Extend Water Pollution Control Act.

- Strengthen Water Pollution Control Act.

Education

- Authorize three-year, \$750 million program for federal purchase of school bonds.

- Authorize federal support, matched by the states, of a lease-purchase plan for school construction.

- Authorize reserve fund for school-construction bonds.

- Authorize three-year, \$200 million program of grants-in-aid to impoverished school districts.

- Authorize federal payment of half the administrative cost of state school construction programs.

Other

- Establish a Federal Advisory Commission on the Arts.

Authorize awards to citizens who contribute to the advancement of civilization.

Provide federal grants to states for juvenile delinquency projects.

Reduce and limit the federal share of public assistance grants to future recipients who also receive OASI benefits.

Foreign Policy

BIPARTISANSHIP

Democrats must be careful they do not lay themselves open to charges of subordinating national interest to partisan considerations. At the same time, they will try to benefit from criticism of GOP foreign policies and their execution. Broad areas of agreement on basic foreign policies have prevailed for some years; issues grow mostly from details.

Pro and con pressures will continue on the questions of relations with Communist China and defense of Nationalist China.

Disarmament could emerge again as a live issue. Conflict will continue over trade between Communist nations and the western bloc.

FOREIGN AID

Congress has grown progressively more critical of foreign aid. Current Russian campaigns to woo Middle East and Asian nations by offering aid may lead to efforts by the U.S. to keep pace. The Administration will attempt to reverse the recent trend by requesting increased aid appropriations. Advance reports indicate a request to raise the amount from \$2.2 billion to \$4.9 billion.

ATOMIC ENERGY

The President's 1955 request for authorization to build an atomic-powered "peace ship," to demonstrate the peaceful potential of nuclear power, was rejected by Congress. The recommendation, along with proposals for international cooperation in atomic energy, may be considered anew.

TRADE

The reciprocal trade program will not be up for extension in 1956, but "protectionists" may try to enact compulsory import quotas -- especially against petroleum, cotton textiles, and bicycles. Congress probably will be asked again to authorize U.S. membership in the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

BRICKER AMENDMENT

Sen. John W. Bricker (R Ohio) plans to press for approval of a revised version of his proposed constitutional amendment to restrict the treaty-making power.

IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES

The President has requested limited amendment of the immigration law. Several Congressmen advocate complete overhaul of the law, with emphasis on revising or dropping the national origins basis for immigration quotas. The Refugee Relief Act, permitting emergency

admission of immigrants beyond regular quotas, will expire. Bottle-necks in issuance of visas have been criticized; efforts may be made to extend the law, make it more workable.

Major Presidential requests in 1955 still awaiting final Congressional approval:

Trade

Authorize membership in the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

Treaties

Consent to ratification of protocol amending slavery convention.

Consent to ratification of convention on importation of commercial samples and advertising material.

Consent to ratification of treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation with Haiti.

Refugees

Amend the Refugee Relief Act to provide for transfer of unused quota in any category.

Redefine "refugee" to eliminate reference to resettlement.

Eliminate requirement that "escapee" or "expellee" be also a "refugee."

Relax requirement that refugee be living away from his home area.

Permit waiver of requirement that alien refugees already in U.S. prove their lawful entry.

Permit waiver of requirement that refugees and escapees provide passports.

Delete requirement for two-year past history on visa applicants.

Permit welfare groups to sponsor individual applicants.

Permit members of a refugee's family to enter the U.S. separately.

Relax ban on admission of tubercular refugees.

Other

Amend immigration law to remove "inequitable" and "discriminatory" provisions.

Labor

TAFT-HARTLEY

Some attempt will be made to amend the Taft-Hartley labor law, but advocates of revision will have trouble generating enough steam to push such major legislation through to enactment. Unions to concentrate on opposition to "right-to-work" laws, by which some states ban compulsory union membership.

UNION POWER

Critics of the merger of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labor will debate the question of labor's growing economic and political power. They may propose legislative restraints.

WELFARE FUNDS

Investigation of alleged abuses of union welfare funds probably will continue, and corrective legislation is slated for consideration.

Major Presidential requests in 1955 still awaiting final Congressional approval:

Revise "eight-hour laws" that apply to federal contractors.

Liberalize longshoremen's injury benefits.

Aid states through a grants program to develop industrial safety programs.

Military and Veterans

SPENDING

The Administration has decided to increase its requests for defense funds. This could shift the pattern of recent years, when Democrats criticized President Eisenhower's cuts in military funds. Congress will continue to debate relative emphasis on Army, Navy, and Air Force strength, and the extent of the shift from conventional weapons to atomic energy and guided missiles.

RESERVES

Congress may be asked to expand the military reserves. The 1955 reserve law omitted some major compulsory features requested by the President. Committees will keep tabs on progress of the reserve training program.

CIVIL DEFENSE

Practice exercises in civil defense will spotlight the question of preparedness for air attack; probably will lead to Congressional efforts to strengthen the program.

CONTRACTS

Congressional investigators may propose revision of laws governing military purchasing. They have criticized widespread use of negotiated contracts in place of competitive bidding.

BENEFITS

Benefits for members of the armed forces and veterans, and for dependents and survivors, will be considered. Specific questions will include revision and liberalization of benefits for survivors of military men, military housing, and Social Security coverage for the armed forces.

Major Presidential requests in 1955 still awaiting final Congressional approval:

Military Benefits

Revise survivor benefits.

Authorize reduced rentals for those living temporarily in substandard housing.

Improve dependents' medical care.

Cover servicemen under Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance.

Miscellaneous and Administrative

STATEHOOD

Congress will reconsider the perennial question of statehood for Hawaii and Alaska. Most Democrats favor simultaneous admission of both territories, while many Republicans want to postpone statehood for Alaska. Recent developments suggest that the President might approve Alaskan statehood if large areas were held as military reservations.

INTERNAL SECURITY

Investigation of Communism will continue, but emphasis was shifting to the other side of the question: Possible abuse of civil liberties in programs aimed at controlling subversion.

MINORITY RIGHTS

Southerners propose prohibition of poll taxes through a constitutional amendment. More extensive federal civil rights legislation -- dealing with lynching and fair employment practices -- probably lacks the support needed for action. Implementation of the Supreme Court's anti-segregation decisions will remain a major issue, but Congressional action is doubtful.

REORGANIZATION

Administration recommendations and Congressional action may emerge from 1955 proposals by the second (Hoover) Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. The Commission's recommendations, which deal with matters of substantive policy as well as procedures, are controversial, but consideration of some is scheduled.

REGULATION

Congress may try to clarify laws regulating lobbyists, and to liberalize regulation of political spending to meet high costs of modern campaigns. New attempts will be made to uncover the facts about Congressional travel on official business.

NOMINATIONS

Since Democrats hope to resume control of the Administration in 1957, GOP nominations to federal jobs will be questioned more critically. Composition of federal regulatory agencies may be studied.

OTHER

The President may resubmit his proposal to lower the voting age below 21.

Federal penalties for airline sabotage may be stiffened.

The Administration may again request increased postal rates.

Democrats will try to develop the issue of big business influence in the federal government, with the corollary of conflict-of-interest charges against some officials.

Congress may press the executive branch to liberalize its policies on release of news.

Major issues concerning the District of Columbia will include suffrage, home rule, finances, and the transit system.

Major Presidential requests in 1955 still awaiting final Congressional approval:

Government and Governed

Grant statehood to Hawaii.

Adopt a Constitutional amendment to reduce the voting age.

Grant home rule and suffrage to Washington, D.C.

Provide non-occupational disability insurance in Washington, D.C.

Provide 26 weeks of benefits under D.C. unemployment insurance law.

Grant Cabinet members a pay raise.

Raise pay of other top officials.

Post Office

Raise postage rates.

Create independent commission to adjust postal rates.

Taxes and Economic Policy

TAX CUTS

Both the Administration and Congress are expected to favor some tax reduction. However, the outlook is complicated by efforts to balance the budget and retire the debt, and by plans to increase funds for defense, foreign aid, and other programs. Some Congressmen favor a middle course, cutting some taxes but raising others to maintain federal revenue at about the current level. A cut isn't expected until after July 1, 1956.

If taxes are reduced the issue will boil down to the depth of the cut, its timing, and its impact on various levels of the income scale. Democrats probably will try to focus tax relief on lower income groups by increasing the personal exemption or granting a flat tax credit. The Administration may agree, or may advocate greater relief for middle and upper income brackets -- perhaps through a percentage cut in tax rates. Democrats may try to repeal the tax credit granted in 1954 to recipients of dividend income. Modification of depreciation and depletion allowances may be proposed.

"Temporary" increases in corporation and excise tax rates -- imposed during the Korean war -- are scheduled to expire. They have been extended twice before. There will be pressure for further reduction or repeal of excises on specific products.

HIGHWAYS

Both parties agree federal aid to highway construction should be expanded substantially. The Senate in 1955 passed a bill (S 1048), but the House rejected two versions. Methods for financing increased aid were the major stumbling block. Recent statements suggest that the Administration will accept financing through highway user taxes, rather than through special bonds, as it proposed at first. Composition of the tax increases will be controversial.

WATER AND POWER

Conflict between the parties will continue on the issue of federal activity in development of water and power resources. Most Republicans favor a "partnership" policy which would rely less on federal construction and more on state, local, and private development. Democrats, especially in the Pacific Northwest and in the area served by the Tennessee Valley Authority, charge that the GOP wants to "give away" resources to private utilities.

Focal points of the power controversy are Hells Canyon and TVA. Democrats plan to continue their opposition to development of Hells Canyon by a private utility, and will seek Congressional authorization of a federal dam at the site on the Oregon-Idaho border. The test of strength on TVA probably will occur on the issue of appropriations for steam plants to generate power and transmission lines to distribute power.

The Dixon-Yates contract will remain in the spotlight. The Administration canceled the contract for private construction of a generating plant to feed power into the TVA system. The issue has shifted to the courts, where the Dixon-Yates combine is suing to collect damages claimed under the cancellation. The federal government declines to pay damages because of alleged conflict of interests in formulation of the contract.

The Administration probably will resubmit its request for Congressional authorization of federal water and power projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin and in the Fryingpan-Arkansas valley. Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay has said his Department would be willing to drop the most controversial element of the Upper Colorado project, the Echo Park dam. Opposition from other sources, notably Southern California, will continue.

NATURAL GAS

Both parties will be split by the battle over a bill (HR 6645), passed by the House in 1955, to exempt producers and gatherers of natural gas from federal regulation.

PROSPERITY

Congressional action in the economic field will hinge largely on the degree of prosperity enjoyed during 1956. Proposals will be considered to encourage high employment and aid depressed areas.

FLOOD CONTROL, RELIEF

Flood control projects -- both as aspects of power and water developments and as single-purpose projects -- will have high priority. Congress also will consider expansion of flood relief and federal participation in disaster insurance.

1956 Calendar of Expiring Legislation

Expiration of legislation and deadlines for reports will fix the pattern for much of Congress' activity in 1956. The timetable of important expiration dates and report deadlines:

Sept. 30, 1955

Authority of Secretary of Commerce to test new-type aircraft. (Commerce Department seeks retroactive extension.)

Feb. 15, 1956

Availability of federal funds to finance polio vaccine program.

March 31

Authority of Secretary of Agriculture to dispose of surplus stocks of dairy products at his discretion.

Temporary increase in corporation tax rate. (Reduction scheduled.)

Temporary increases in excise tax rates on alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, automotive fuels, automobiles, trucks, and automobile parts. (Reduction scheduled.)

April 1

Social Security wage credits for military service.

TRANSPORTATION

Action may be based on 1955 recommendations for modification of federal regulation of transportation. Subsidies for commercial air, surface, and sea transportation will be reconsidered.

Major Presidential requests in 1955 still awaiting final Congressional approval:

Taxes, Customs

Tax U.S. corporations' income from foreign subsidiaries at 14 percent below domestic rates.

Defer taxes on income from U.S.-owned foreign branches until it leaves the country where it was earned.

Exempt from taxes income from investment companies handling exempt securities.

Improve customs administration and procedures.

Improve import valuation methods.

Increase the duty-free allowance for tourists.

Resources, Public Works

Authorize Upper Colorado Basin project.

Authorize Fryingpan-Arkansas project.

Require TVA interest payments.

Official Programs

President Eisenhower Dec. 12 met with Republican leaders to discuss the domestic program for the forthcoming session of Congress. The Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, Sen. Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, Dec. 24 laid down his proposed program for the session. And the Senate Majority Leader, Lyndon B. Johnson (D Texas), Nov. 21 announced his program for Congressional action in 1956.

The three programs agreed action was needed on social security, taxes, school construction, highways, and farms.

May 31

Deadline for Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation to report to Congress on extension of Renegotiation Act.

June 14

Authority of Secretary of Commerce to provide war-risk insurance for aircraft.

June 30

Temporary \$6 billion increase in public debt limit. (Reversion to \$275 billion scheduled.)

Provisions of Defense Production Act authorizing allocation of strategic materials, establishment of priorities, and expansion of production capacity and supply.

President's authority to regulate exports under Export Control Act of 1949.

Suspension of duties and import taxes on metal scrap. (Resumption scheduled.)

Mutual security (foreign aid) authorization.

President's authority to transfer military equipment to Japan.

Deadline for applications for federal payments to aid school construction in areas over-burdened by federal activities.

Temporary formula for computation of federal aid to schools in these over-burdened areas. (Three percent "absorption" requirement scheduled to take effect.)

Authority for federal activity in domestic tin-smelting industry.

Fund authorizations under Water Pollution Control Act.

Deadline for final report by Advisory Committee on Weather Control. (Committee dissolves 30 days later.)

Fund authorization for construction of roads in Nicaragua.

Deadline for report by Secretary of Treasury to Congress on purchase of surety bonds for federal employees.

Authority of Secretary of Agriculture to transfer Commodity Credit Corporation funds to appropriation for eradication of brucellosis.

Authority for Canadian vessels to operate between certain Alaskan ports and ports in continental U.S.

Commodity Credit Corporation authorization to spend \$50 million to increase consumption of milk by school children.

Exemption from inspection of vessels of less than 15 gross tons. (Resumption of inspections scheduled.)

Authority of Federal Reserve Board to buy and sell certain bonds without regard to their maturities.

July 1

Authority for construction of defense production facilities by armed forces.

Missing Persons Act.

War-risk and detention benefits for federal employees.

Authority of Secretary of Agriculture to construct watershed and flood prevention projects under provisions of 1954 law.

July 11

Authority of Secretary of Treasury to encourage use of beverage alcohol in synthetic rubber program by granting exemptions from Internal Revenue Code to certain distillery operations.

July 15

Authority of Secretary of Commerce to sell certain merchant vessels to Brazil.

Suspension of duty on bauxite. (Resumption scheduled.)

July 16

Deadline for filing claims for mustering-out payments under Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

July 31

Authorization for construction of 45,000 units of public housing.

International Wheat Agreement.

Aug. 1

Deadline for report to President by Secretaries of State and Labor on estimated amount of certain claims under War Claims Act.

Aug. 20

Authority of Secretary of Commerce to enter into contracts under Emergency Ship Repair Act of 1954.

Aug. 31

Deadline for Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to complete settlement of claims under War Claims Act.

Duty-free imports of "book binding or cover." (Resumption of duties scheduled.)

Presidential Messages

The second session of the 84th Congress will convene at noon Tuesday, Jan. 3. In a series of messages, President Eisenhower will outline the agenda he wants Congress to follow.

The State of the Union message will be delivered Jan. 5. Dates for delivery of the Budget message and the Economic Report have not been set yet. In 1955, they were delivered on Jan. 17 and Jan. 20 respectively.

In addition, the President is required to submit reports on some activities of the executive branch, and transmits recommendations for Congressional action in major areas. In 1955, for example, he sent Congress messages on foreign economic policy, postal employees and federal personnel management, military security, health, school construction, highways, foreign aid, low-income farmers, refugee relief, and reclamation loans. Several of these subjects will be the basis for 1956 messages. The White House already has announced that a message on agriculture will be transmitted early in January.

Sept. 1

Final report by Tariff Commission on tariff classification structure.

Deadline for certifying certain claims to Secretary of Treasury under War Claims Act Amendments of 1954.

Sept. 30

Federal Housing Administration Title I home repair and improvement program.

FHA Title VIII (Wherry Act) military housing program.

Current matching formula for federal contributions to states for public assistance. (Congress could return to old formula, extend current formula, or establish new formula.)

Oct. 20

Deadline for application by certain disabled veterans for automobiles (or five years after discharge, whichever is later).

Dec. 31

President's authority to lend military equipment to friendly nations of Far East.

Issuance of visas under Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

Renegotiation Act.

Deadline for final report by Commission on Government Security. (Commission dissolves 90 days later.)

Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.

Sugar Act of 1948.

Authority for Alaska to receive surplus property without reimbursing federal government.

Authority of Commodity Credit Corporation to supply dairy products to Veterans Administration and service hospitals under Agricultural Act of 1954.

June 30, 1957

Federal Aid Highway Act of 1954. (The 1954 Act authorized appropriations for fiscal 1956 and 1957. If the normal pattern is followed, funds for fiscal 1958 and 1959 will be authorized in 1956.)

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

With the approach of 1956 elections, one of the noisiest and most controversial political organizations in the nation, Americans for Democratic Action, was preparing its campaign.

- What is ADA's history? Who's behind it?
- What legislative activity does it engage in?
- How influential is it? What is said for and against it?

History

Founded in Washington in January, 1947, by a group of more than 130 persons, including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Thomas K. Finletter, ex-Secretary of Air Force; Mrs. Gifford Pinchot; Walter Reuther, vice president, AFL-CIO; Morris Ernst, New York lawyer and author; and James B. Carey, vice president, AFL-CIO.

"Guiding spirit" behind ADA, its officers have stated, was and is Reinhold Niebuhr, author-theologian-philosopher, whose Union for Democratic Action, founded in 1941, set the pattern for ADA. Following its organizational meeting ADA issued a statement of principles underlying the new organization:

- "The New Deal program must be expanded...."
- "Civil liberties must be protected from concentrated wealth and centralized government."
- "...Foreign policy requires a healthy and prosperous domestic economy."
- "The United States must continue to give full support to the United Nations."
- The United States "must furnish political and economic support to democratic and freedom-loving peoples the world over."

ADA answered its own question of "Why ADA?" by stating ADA "was founded to map a campaign for restoring the influence of liberalism in the national and international policies of the United States because elections of 1946 had returned ultra-conservatives to power in Congress.... The country, weakened by premature demobilization, demanded an answer to...Soviet aggression.... (American) Communists were seeking to establish themselves as the authentic heirs of the New Deal." ADA said it is an "organization to which all liberals are welcome and from which all totalitarians -- including, very explicitly, Communists and fellow-travelers -- are firmly excluded."

Organization

ADA, with national headquarters in Washington, currently has about 45,000 members associated with 125 chapters in 39 states. Its affiliate, Students for Democratic Action, has more than 2,000 members in 75 campus chapters.

ADA individual membership dues are \$3.00 annually divided between the local chapter and national headquarters.

Additional revenue comes from various labor organizations (these funds are used for educational and public service programs of ADA), gifts from individuals, and fund-raising Roosevelt Day dinners held by local chapters.

Yearly expenditures of ADA were reported about \$175,000. This figure covers salaries of national officers, headquarters' staff, publications, travel of national officers, and annual convention expenses.

Officers

National Honorary Chairman -- Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Chairman -- Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., Washington attorney, a founder.

Vice Chairmen -- Mrs. Sadie T.M. Alexander, Philadelphia lawyer; Francis Biddle, former Attorney General in the Roosevelt Administration; James E. Doyle, lawyer and former Assistant Secretary of State under James Byrnes; A.J. Hayes, president, International Association of Machinists (AFL-CIO); Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D Minn.); W. P. Kennedy, president, Railroad Trainmen of America (AFL-CIO); Sen. Herbert H. Lehman (D N.Y.); Sen. Wayne L. Morse (D Ore.); Reinhold Niebuhr, author-theologian-philosopher; James G. Patton, president, National Farmers Union; Walter P. Reuther, vice president, AFL-CIO; ex-Rep. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., (D N.Y. 1949-55); Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., author and Harvard professor of history.

Legislative Representative -- John J. Gunther.

A national board of 40 members includes Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, former Ambassador to Denmark; James B. Carey, vice president, AFL-CIO; Joseph S. Clark, Jr., outgoing mayor of Philadelphia; David Dubinsky, vice president, AFL-CIO; Mrs. India Edwards, vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee; Thomas K. Finletter, former Secretary of Air Force (1950-53); Michael Straight, editor New Republic; Telford Taylor, lawyer and author; and James A. Wexler, editor, New York Post.

This board meets four times a year to consider organizational policies. A national convention each spring adopts a platform and program for the coming year on national, international, and political issues. Monthly meetings of an executive board decide "spot" policy questions.

Biographies

Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. -- One of the group who in 1946 conceived the idea of a broadly-based anti-Communist liberal organization. A lawyer, graduate of Harvard Law School, he came to Washington as law secretary to Justices Benjamin Cardozo and Felix Frankfurter. He later was a counsel to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Labor, Federal Communications Commission, and the Lend-Lease Administration. He served three years on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff. Before taking up private legal practice he acted as Deputy Housing Expediter. His private practice has included many civil liberties cases as well as such clients as the UAW-CIO and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Elected ADA national chairman March 1955. As national chairman, Rauh heads the active national headquarters at 1341 Connecticut Ave., Washington.

John J. Gunther -- A Kansan, he came to Washington in 1946 with the National Institute of Public Affairs, sponsored by the Rockefeller project. A former political science major at Notre Dame, he worked for the Labor Department, the National Labor Relations Board, and as legislative assistant for Sen. Ralph E. Flanders (R Vt.). As legislative representative of ADA, Gunther provides source material to Congressmen for speeches, testifies at hearings, and contacts Congressmen personally.

Publications, Convention

The only regular ADA publication is "ADA World," a tabloid-sized monthly newspaper sent all members. ADA World annually evaluates voting records of Members of Congress on some roll-call votes of the year. The voting record analysis is reprinted, distributed to many organizations and schools.

"Off-the-floor compromises and deals" and "too few roll-call votes" characterized the first session of the 84th Congress according to a Sept. 12, 1955, evaluation by ADA based on 10 roll-call votes. The study, said ADA, "pointed up the far more liberal voting records made by the Democrats in both...Houses...than made by the Republicans...." (Weekly Report, p. 1060)

At its 8th annual convention in Washington, D.C., March 18-20, 1955, ADA recommended a "drastic revision" of "unjust Administration tax policies, asked for federal action to provide "true parity" of farm income, "condemned" the so-called Bricker amendment, and urged Congress to revise the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act. (For other recommendations, Weekly Report, p. 328.)

1956 Election Plans

In preparing for 1956 elections, ADA will testify before the platform committees of both parties. Since the Republican Platform Committee is divided into panels on various topics, ADA will testify before a selected number of panels, including foreign policy, labor relations, farm policies, welfare, civil rights, civil liberties, national defense. The Democratic Platform Committee will hear ADA suggestions based on all the resolutions adopted by the 1956 ADA national convention.

Endorsements

ADA is to decide on its endorsement policy. Each chapter has encouraged members to work for candidates of their choice, but ADA policy has dictated that no chapter will give its organization endorsement to a particular candidate before he is nominated by his party. This also has been the policy regarding Presidential candidates prior to the national nominating conventions.

Strong feeling within ADA wants to change this practice, permit local chapters to endorse and work for persons filed in various Presidential primaries.

ADA endorsement has been regarded as a limited blessing. In 1954, Republican Sen. Clifford Case was endorsed, as was his Democratic opponent, ex-Rep. Charles R. Howell (D N.J. 1949-55), by ADA in New Jersey. Case's reaction: "The ADA and I are unquestionably worlds apart in the field of domestic affairs and most social and political philosophies. It is inconceivable that the ADA could endorse me as against an opponent who is a member and vice-chairman of that organization and presumably in full accord with its principles."

Foster Furcolo, Democratic candidate for the Senate in Massachusetts in 1954, received ADA support but told a meeting of the organization the best service they could render would be to shut up shop.

Stephen Mitchell, former Democratic National Chairman, said early in 1954: "I think we can get along without (ADA endorsement) all right." In April, 1954, an ADA spokesman said Mitchell and ADA had "cleared up their differences," and Mitchell had told the national co-chairman of ADA he would "welcome the help of those independent groups such as ADA.... So long as the ADA principle and Democratic party principle coincide they could work together."

The ADA itself says about endorsements:

"Although ADA has most often found itself in sympathy with Fair Deal Democrats, it has many good friends among liberal Republicans. In 1954, the Baltimore ADA chapter supported GOP Governor (Theodore) McKeldin for re-election over his conservative Democratic opponent. ADA in New Jersey found both Senate candidates, Republican Clifford Case and Democrat Charles Howell, 'equally endorsable' and commended both parties for 'selecting such outstanding liberals.'

"New York ADA took a similar position in the contest between Jacob Javits and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., for Attorney General in 1954. ADA chapters have supported many Republicans in local contests. In one Chicago election, for example, ADA endorsed 42 Republican and 46 Democratic candidates. In the spring of 1955, the Chicago ADA (Independent Voters of Illinois) endorsed the Republican mayoralty candidate, Robert A. Merriam."

Legislative Activity

During each Congressional session ADA issues a Legislative Newsletter prepared under Gunther's direction. Gunther is registered under the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act as ADA's legislative representative.

Programs sponsored by ADA include public affairs workshops held in Washington annually and at Bard College in New York during the summer. ADA representatives lead groups on overseas tours.

ADA testifies through Gunther or another selected representative at Congressional hearings on matters relating to the ADA platform. In 1955, ADA representatives went on record as follows:

Antitrust	Stated huge business mergers could endanger political freedom.
Civil rights	Supported expanded civil rights legislation.
Employment ban on subversives	Opposed S 681 to bar suspected subversives from defense plants, said the bill did not provide any protection for the individual.
Foreign aid	Termed the Administration plan "woefully inadequate."
Minimum wage	Supported an increase to \$1.25.
Reciprocal trade	Supported liberalized extension.
Refugee relief	Urged liberalization.
School construction	Opposed the Administration program and supported a direct-aid

Commission on Government Security	Supported its establishment.
Technical aid	Urged expanded program.
Direct election of President	Supported.

In 1954 ADA spokesmen appeared at Congressional hearings concerning:

Bricker amendment	Opposed.
Investigative procedures of Congress	Called for elimination of one-man investigations.
Foreign economic aid	Urged an expanded program.
TVA	Favored an enlarged program.
Housing	Supported 135,000 low rent housing starts in fiscal 1955, and termed the Administration program "only a token..."
Tax law revision	Opposed the Administration tax bill, stating it aided "higher income groups and corporations."
Wiretapping	Urged Congress to outlaw wire-tapping.

ADA 'Accomplishments'

ADA said about its political accomplishments:

ADA chapters in 1948 "helped in the election to Congress of 37 ADA members, as well as 40-odd other liberals." ADA also claimed some credit for the 1951 election of Joseph S. Clark, Jr., as mayor of Philadelphia, and Richardson Dilworth as district attorney. In 1952 the national Stevenson-for-President Committee was formed by ADA's Chicago affiliate, Independent Voters of Illinois. Wilson W. Wyatt and Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., former ADA national officers, served as Stevenson's campaign manager and research director, respectively.

In 1954 Richard Neuberger (D Ore.), former chairman of the Portland ADA chapter, was elected to the Senate, and ADA "helped to elect" Rep. Patrick McNamara (D Mich.), and to re-elect Sens. Paul H. Douglas (D Ill.) and Hubert H. Humphrey (D Minn.).

ADA cited as "striking examples of the repudiation of the anti-ADA smear in House races" the 1954 defeat of Kit Clardy (R Mich. 1953-55) by Don Hayworth (D), former chairman of the Lansing ADA chapter, and of Charles Kersten (R Wis. 1947-49, 1951-55) by Henry Reuss (D). The Independent Voters of Illinois "helped greatly to replace two reactionary incumbents by liberals and overwhelmingly re-elect Sidney Yates (D) and Barratt O'Hara (D)...."

ADA said it also "contributed substantially" to the 1954 victories of Govs. Averell Harriman (D N.Y.), George Leader (D Pa.), and G. Mennen Williams (D Mich.). It said the New Jersey ADA "played an active part" in the 1953 victory of Gov. Robert B. Meyner (D).

Statements Against ADA

The Daily Worker	ADA is the "imperialist's fifth column inside the labor movement."
Fulton Lewis, Jr.	"ADA, an organization that holds Stevenson captive along with the most massive collection of crackpots ever assembled under one tag."
The Senate GOP Policy Committee	"Beneath the uplift lingo and self-righteous accents, the (ADA) doctrine is socialism still -- low and deliberate social and economic paralysis, the chloroform of hope, pride, enterprise, self-respect, initiative, spontaneity, and freedom."
Vice President Richard M. Nixon	"The ADA record on the internal Communist issue is not one which would inspire confidence."

Statements Favoring ADA

Aldai E. Stevenson	"Your members have played valuable roles in rallying Americans to protect and expand our heritage of freedom and opportunity.... Responsible and affirmative liberalism that will cool men's heads while it stirs their hearts -- is an essential element in a free democracy and free world."
Sen. Wayne Morse (D Ore)	"Americans for Democratic Action has been selected by the leaders of the Republican Party as the whipping boy in the 1954 campaign.... ADA is dedicated to a program of constitutional liberalism and its policies are dictated by the needs, aspirations, and desires of the American people."
Harry S. Truman	"The ADA was set up in January 1947. Those were dark days for the liberal forces in America. But you people had the courage to take up the fight and go forward. You dedicated yourselves to fight for progress and against reaction -- against reaction of the right and against reaction of the left."
Averell Harriman	"There was a great necessity at the time to have the people of this country understand the difference between Communism in this country, and liberal, independent thinking and speaking in this country."
Sen. Estes Kefauver (D Tenn.)	"The enthusiasm, skill, and liberal principles of ADA in action has a healthy political effect."



Pressures on Congress

LABOR POLLS

The Machinist, weekly publication of the International Association of Machinists, Dec. 27 said 151 union leaders picked Adlai E. Stevenson and Earl Warren as labor's choice of the top labor vote-getters for 1956. The Republican choice was based on the assumption that President Eisenhower would not run again.

Presidents of the unions, including all those affiliated with the AFL-CIO, were asked "Whom do you believe would draw the strongest support from labor voters?" as Presidential nominees. Runner-up among possible Republicans was Gov. Goodwin J. Knight of California. On the Democratic side, Gov. Averell Harriman of New York and Sen. Estes Kefauver (Tenn.) were tied for second.

The Machinist's report on replies to its poll: Republicans -- Warren, 74 percent; Knight, 15 percent; scattered, 5 percent; no opinion, 6 percent. Scattered votes were received for Gov. Fred Hall of Kansas, Presidential Assistant Harold Stassen, Vice President Richard M. Nixon and Sen. William F. Knowland of California. Thomas E. Dewey, former New York governor and GOP Presidential candidate listed on the ballot, received no votes.

Democrats -- Stevenson, 62 percent; Harriman, 14 percent; Kefauver, 14 percent; Gov. Mennen Williams of Michigan, 6 percent; Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri, 3 percent; no opinion, 1 percent.

PRESSURE POINTS

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Dec. 21 said it favored restoring the independent status of the Civil Aeronautics Administration because it would "remove non-aviation transportation pressures inherently present in the Commerce Department," of which CAA is a part. The Air Line Pilots Association Dec. 21 said it would support a proposal by Sen. A.S. Mike Monroney (D Okla.) effecting the change in CAA status because it "should help to remove some of the politics which have handicapped the work of the (CAA) and resulted in a succession of eight administrators in the past 15 years."

Executive vice president Norman Strunk of the United States Savings and Loan League Dec. 27 said home building in 1956 "will get off to a slower start than in 1955 but will pick up momentum as the year goes on." He forecast a minimum of 1.2 million new homes, said financing for new and existing homes would approximate \$30.5 billion compared with \$28.3 billion in 1955.

The National Industrial Conference Board Dec. 20 said a year-long survey of 194 unions in the United States

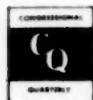
and Canada showed a combined annual income of \$457 million in dues payments from 17,500,000 members. Initiation fees and assessments were excluded. The study, covering 139 unions affiliated with the merged American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and 55 independent unions, showed: average dues, \$26.14 a year; per capita taxes to international unions, \$228 million annually; unions with 10.5 million members had constitutions requiring strike vote; unions with six million members required secret ballot strike vote; five unions with 442,000 members had constitutions barring workers on racial grounds.

Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., Dec. 20 petitioned the Subversive Activities Control Board to declare the independent United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America a Communist-infiltrated union. Brownell alleged: the union's leaders, without the knowledge of a great majority of the membership, had used its resources to support Communist organizations, foreign Communist governments and the world Communist movement; policies were shaped by officials in collaboration with Communist party functionaries; principal officers were members of the party.

The National Resources Council of America Dec. 21 said there was need for constructing \$1.9 billion in facilities to prevent pollution of public waters. The "federal budgeting process has treated this program like a stepchild," it added. The Council said "We know our cities should, and must pay for cleaning up their own wastes.... The federal share is one of stimulating, of co-ordinating, of research and surveys, and of enforcement when necessary only in cases of interstate water pollution that can't be handled by state or interstate action."

Mayor Alex M. Clark of Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 28 said he would become chairman of a Joint Committee of Consumers and Small Gas Producers to be set up in Washington to oppose legislation exempting certain natural gas producers from federal control. Clark, Republican who did not seek re-election, said City Attorney P. K. Ward of Indianapolis would be secretary-treasurer.

The Wildlife Management Institute Dec. 22 said there was "no justification" to the leasing of certain wildlife refuge areas to oil companies by the Department of the Interior. The conservation group said oil development would "kill off" waterfowl in some areas, "contaminate" the food supply of birds and other animals, and generally blight the natural flora and fauna.



Political Notes

REPUBLICANS

State Rep. Paige Varner (R) Dec. 23 said he would enter President Eisenhower's name in the Pennsylvania Presidential primary April 24, added he had no information on the President's desire to seek re-election.

In Wisconsin, a 10-member slate, including former supporters of both Mr. Eisenhower and the late Sen. Robert A. Taft, Dec. 23 was formed to work for the re-nomination of the President. The slate, including all top state officeholders, would be pledged to Gov. Walter J. Kohler (R) if Mr. Eisenhower declined to enter the Wisconsin primary April 3.

Rep. John W. Heselton (R Mass.) Dec. 21 announced a campaign to promote Massachusetts Gov. Christian A. Herter (R) for the Republican Presidential nomination if Mr. Eisenhower declined a second term. Heselton managed Herter's 1954 campaign for governor.

DEMOCRATS

Sen. Wayne Morse (D Ore.) Dec. 23 predicted Adlai E. Stevenson and Sen. Estes Kefauver (D Tenn.) would be entered in the Oregon Presidential primary May 18 with or without their consent. Kefauver Dec. 22 told a Norfolk, Va., audience "it would be tragic if the public school system were destroyed or damaged" in efforts to avert integration. Kefauver also endorsed more economic aid for southeast Asia.

Texas Gov. Allan Shivers (D) Dec. 20 said the Democratic Presidential candidate would "have to be a stepper" to carry Texas against Mr. Eisenhower if the President ran again. Shivers repeated his opposition to Stevenson, said he hoped for a "moderate" candidate.

Former Maryland Gov. William Preston Lane, Jr. (D), reported favorite son candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, Dec. 22 said he would consider the role "only...if I could be helpful to the party in some way by doing it."

EMERGENCY ELECTIONS

Democratic National Chairman Paul M. Butler Nov. 9 proposed a constitutional amendment to require new national elections if a President were, for any reason, unable to carry out his duties within two years of taking office. Under his proposal, the Vice President would succeed to the Presidency only until a new election could be held. The new President would serve the balance of his predecessor's term. Butler also suggested the Vice President serve out the term if the President's infirmity occurred after "two or three" years in office. If such a provision had been in the Constitution in the past, Presidents Truman, Coolidge, Theodore Roosevelt, Arthur, Johnson, Fillmore, and Tyler could not have served as President without the test of a special election.

STATE ROUNDUP

INDIANA -- Gov. George N. Craig (R) Dec. 22 said he was "under heavy pressure" to oppose Sen. Homer E. Capehart (R) in the 1956 Senatorial primary because Capehart had not fully supported the Eisenhower Administration. Capehart said, "I've supported the Administration to the limit." CQ's figures show Capehart supported Mr. Eisenhower's position on 65 percent of the votes in 1955, opposed him on 12 percent. His Eisenhower Support score for the 83rd Congress (1953-54) was 48 percent. (Weekly Report, p. 1012).

KENTUCKY -- John T. Diederich, Ashland banker, Dec. 19 replaced Jouett Ross Todd of Louisville as Republican national committeeman. Dewey Daniel of Hazard was named to succeed Diederich as chairman of the state committee.

OHIO -- Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D), mentioned as a possible candidate for governor, Dec. 22 said he would seek re-election in the 18th District.

SOUTH CAROLINA -- Former Gov. James F. Byrnes Dec. 6 said he might attend the Democratic National Convention to challenge former Democratic National Chairman Stephen A. Mitchell, who said he would fight Byrnes' right to be a delegate...Sen. Strom Thurmond (D) Dec. 15 said he would vote to impeach every member of the Supreme Court for ruling school segregation unconstitutional.

TENNESSEE -- The Tennessee Supreme Court Dec. 3 was asked to review a lower court ruling that the 1901 apportionment law must be revised before the 1956 vote for state legislators.

TEXAS -- An indictment charging Rep. John J. Bell (D) with conspiracy in a state veterans land program deal Dec. 12 was dismissed because a grand juror had failed to pay his poll tax (Weekly Report, p. 843)

VIRGINIA -- The legislature Dec. 3 authorized a Jan. 9 referendum on state constitutional amendments designed to avoid enforced racial integration in public schools. The referendum was endorsed by Gov. Thomas B. Stanley (D) and Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D). (Weekly Report, p. 1224)

WEST VIRGINIA -- Rep. Robert H. Mollohan (D) Dec. 17 said he would seek the Democratic nomination for governor in 1956. Mollohan received 52.7 percent of the vote in 1954. In 1955, he supported President Eisenhower on 41 percent of the roll-call votes, opposed him on 56 percent. His CQ Party Unity score was 84 percent...Four candidates had filed for the Republican Congressional nomination in the Fourth District by Dec. 23: ex-Rep. Will E. Neal (R) of Huntington; Sheriff H. D. Humphreys of Cabell County; Sheriff Robert Smith of Wayne County; and John D. Hoblitzell, 43, of Parkersburg. Rep. M. G. Burnside (D) was unopposed for his party's nomination.



Around the Capitol

PRESIDENT GOES SOUTH

President Eisenhower Dec. 28 arrived in Key West, Fla., to spend about two weeks getting the sunshine and exercise recommended by his doctors. (Weekly Report, p. 1313)

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said the President's return for the January 3 opening of Congress was "unnecessary" because his State of the Union message would be read by Senate and House clerks.

The President was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Howard M. Snyder, his personal physician, and a small White House staff, as well as by his brother, Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, President of Pennsylvania State College.

TAXES

Congressmen, cautious in forecasting possible tax legislation when Congress reconvened Jan. 3, had these predictions:

Rep. Daniel A. Reed (R N.Y.), senior Republican Member of the Ways and Means Committee -- There was a "strong possibility" of cutting individual taxes "under normal circumstances," but he preferred a "wait-and-see attitude." Reed said there was a growing opinion among leaders of both parties that any reductions "await clearer evidence of the fiscal situation sometime in the Spring."

Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D Ark.), a senior Democratic Member of the Ways and Means Committee -- Regarded 1956 reductions as "unwise," but would not foreclose the possibility of tax reductions by 1957.

Rep. Walter Norblad (R Ore.) -- "Debt payment and budget balancing are the goals to be reached now.... If this can be accomplished and there is still a Treasury surplus, we should then, and not until then, consider lowering taxes. Any other policy...would be one of complete fiscal irresponsibility."

Sen. John M. Butler (R Md.) -- Predicted "tax relief will come in April or May.... It will be aimed at easing the burden of the low and middle income brackets.... In my opinion the total cut will approximate \$3.5 billion."

EXECUTIVE BRIEFS

Dr. Edwin C. Nourse, chairman of Ex-President Harry S. Truman's Council of Economic Advisors, Dec. 28 said there might be a 15 or 20 percent drop in business volume in 1956, that the boom had a number of soft spots, including farm income, steel, automobiles, credit, and construction.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture James A. McConnell Dec. 24 resigned for what he termed urgent personal reasons. He also resigned his post as a member of the

Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corp. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson said McConnell would continue as a department consultant.

A. Jackson Goodwin, Jr., Dec. 24 resigned as a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, effective Jan. 1, for what he said were urgent personal reasons. His term would have run until 1959.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFS

Chairman Francis E. Walter (D Pa.) of the House Un-American Activities Committee Dec. 21 proposed barring lawyers from representing witnesses before the Committee unless the attorneys swore they were neither Communists nor ex-Communists, and they were in good standing in the courts of their states. Walter said application forms for lawyers would be prepared, and Committee members asked to approve their use.

Sen. Russell B. Long (D La.) Dec. 24 said he would offer an amendment to the Social Security Act in 1956 to make minimum old age payments \$55 or \$60 a month instead of the current \$30, which he called "thoroughly unrealistic."

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D Wash.), home from a tour of United States military installations in the Far East, Dec. 23 said "if we don't stop Russia in Southeast Asia we might as well sign a quit-claim deed to the balance of Asia and grant Soviet entry into the United States."

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D Mont.) Dec. 28 said "we shouldn't be taken in" by Russia's announced plans for a 10 percent cut in its military budget next year, but "must keep our defenses up." Other Senate comments on the Russian proposal: Henry C. Dworshak (R Idaho), "When I have proof, I'll believe it;" Charles E. Potter (R Mich.) said he took the announcement "with a large grain of salt;" John L. McClellan (D Ark.) was "very skeptical that there is any truth in the statement."

Sen. William E. Jenner (R Ind.) Dec. 20 said the United States showed "stupid weakness" in agreeing to an arrangement allowing Yugoslavia and the Philippines to split a two-year term on the United Nations Security Council. "The trouble is that our representative in the U.N. does not represent the people of the United States," Jenner said.



Committee Roundup

In This Section... (Dec. 23-29)

- Joint Committee Against Tax Cuts in 1956
- Senate Releases Handbook on Communism
- Democrats Decry Rush of Bank Mergers

Action

TAX POLICY

COMMITTEE -- Joint Economic Report Tax Policy Subcommittee.

ACTION -- Dec. 30 issued a report titled "Tax Policy for Economic Growth and Stability." (Weekly Report, p. 1316)

The report said:

"A tax reduction" in 1956 "in the face of a booming economy might well be inflationary," added it would be better to apply surplus funds toward reducing the national debt.

"If we succeed in moderating short-run fluctuations in economic activity, we can count on a steady growth" which may lead to reducing federal taxes "by as much as one third," within the next ten years.

Because of current tax inequities, "a thorough-going revision of the Internal Revenue Code" should be started with emphasis "at the outset on the individual and corporate income taxes and on excises."

The tax system could be made more flexible and sensitive to over-all economic conditions by widening the range of tax levies on personal and corporate incomes.

Conditions should dictate tax changes; for example, a shortage of buying power would merit a cut in personal taxes while a disinclination by industry to expand to meet a growing market would merit a cut in business taxes.

Taxes should be tailored more to small businesses to enable them to compete with large corporations without resorting to mergers.

In a supplemental report, Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D Ill.) said the government should try to reduce income taxes for those in the lower wage brackets; reduce or eliminate excise taxes on such things as transportation and movie tickets but not on liquor, tobacco, or gasoline; eventually reduce the tax rates for the higher income brackets and on inherited property.

The government could take in more revenue, Douglas said, by allowing large oil and gas companies less tax allowances for exploration; plugging tax loopholes regarding family business partnerships and estates.

BANK ANTITRUST LAWS

COMMITTEE -- House Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee.

ACTION -- Dec. 27 issued a report on corporate and bank mergers. (Weekly Report, p. 882)

The Subcommittee's Democratic majority said a rising tide of mergers was "one of the most ominous clouds on the economic horizon," called enforcement of

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE COMMITTEES

- Jan 4 Judiciary Internal Security Subcommittee -- Communist infiltration of the press. Continues Jan. 5, 6.
- Jan 9 Small Business Military Procurement Subcommittee -- Federal military procurement program. Continues Jan. 10.
- Jan 11 Judiciary Internal Security Subcommittee -- Personal records of former Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., in regard to Harry Dexter White. Continues Jan. 12, 13.
- Jan 15 Public Works -- Consider authorizing power development of the Niagara River.
- Jan 17 Interstate and Foreign Commerce -- Radio and television industry.
- Jan 19 Interstate and Foreign Commerce -- Automobile Marketing Practices Subcommittee.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

- Jan 4 Interior and Insular Affairs Public Lands Subcommittee -- Military use of public lands. Continues Jan. 5.

the Celler-Kefauver Antimerger Act by the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice "negligible" and "a token gesture."

The Subcommittee said since 1951 over 3,000 concerns had "disappeared in this swelling merger tide;" that an estimated 500 mergers would occur in manufacturing and mining in 1955, "thus breaking all records for a quarter of a century."

The Subcommittee recommended: "a substantial increase" in appropriations to the Department of Justice and FTC specifically earmarked for merger work; premerger injunctive action by the Department of Justice when deemed necessary; assignment of merger cases to the agency best able to handle them instead of present "first come first served" methods.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE -- Senate Judiciary Internal Security Subcommittee.

ACTION -- Dec. 27 issued "A Handbook for Americans," a study of the Communist Party's makeup and operations in the United States to "counteract" misinformation about the Communist Party was due, in part, "to our ignorance of the problem of the existence in our midst of a mass conspiratorial organization controlled by a foreign power." The 100-page handbook said those who belittled Communist strength in the United States "are deluding themselves."

CORRECTIONS

To increase the reference value of its editorial matter, Congressional Quarterly periodically publishes corrections and clarifications for its Weekly Report.

CQ corrects major errors as they are noted and assembles other corrections for your convenience at the end of each quarter. The corrections that follow are to be made in the 1955 Weekly Report. (For third quarter corrections, see p. 1102.)

Page 873, Column 2 -- Under "Oldest Senators," line 10 should read: The five Senate Republicans (not four); under Duff insert Ralph E. Flanders (Vt.), 74.

Page 1003, Column 2 -- Under "Congressional Statistics," paragraph 4, line 1 should read: Of 891 public and private bills (not 880).

Page 1175, Column 1 -- Second paragraph from the bottom of page, line 2, delete John W. Heselton (Mass.). To correct the statistics on this page, subtract one from the number of Republican Representatives who traveled overseas, one from the number of Republicans who toured Russia, and one from the number of House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee Members who traveled abroad.

Page 1206, Column 1 -- Under "Eisenhower Recovery," paragraph 4, line 6, the name of the Israeli Foreign Minister should be Moshe Sharett (not Abba Eban).

Page 1225, Column 1 -- Under "Security Panel Named," paragraph 2, line 2 should read: McGranery, former U.S. Attorney General (not assistant U.S. Attorney General).

Page 1280, Column 1 -- Paragraph 2 should read: Kefauver won 59 percent of the vote, against 39 (not 49) percent for Sen. Robert S. Kerr (D Okla.).

Page 1307, Column 2 -- Under "Wisconsin," should read: Gov. Walter J. Kohler (R) not expected to run for a fourth term. Attorney General Vernon W. Thomson (R), a candidate to succeed Kohler, who probably will support Thomson. Leading Democratic gubernatorial candidate is William Proxmire, Madison printing executive, whom Kohler beat twice.

Page 1310, Column 1 -- Second paragraph from the bottom of page should read: Coya Knutson (D Minn.) -- Agriculture; 73rd (not 72nd) in seniority.

Page 1313, Column 2 -- Under "Political Briefs," paragraph 1, line 6 should read: fifth (not first) two-year term as governor.

Back Page, Weekly Report, Dec. 9 -- Under "Unions Unite," Sen. Barry Goldwater should be (R Ariz.) not (D Ariz.); under "Uphill Struggle," lines 8 and 9 should read: seats could switch, while only five of the Democratic (not Republican) seats are in danger.



Capitol Quotes

UNITED NATIONS -- "It is deeply humiliating...to see the...United States at the UN taking part in a deal over whether the Philippine Islands should have the vacant seat on the Security Council.... The choice of the Philippines...is an issue of principle and we must watch while the delegate from the United States consents to decide an issue of principle by drawing straws.... Congress must look into the question of our representative's...opposition to Dr. Tsiang of Nationalist China and in support of Soviet bulldozing tactics.... Congress must look at our fantastic role in the fight to reward a brave leader of the anti-Communist Afro-Asian nations with a well-deserved seat of honor on the Security Council.... If the American people are ever to have a voice in the United Nations or in any other aspect of our foreign policy, Congress must...restore government by the people in place of government by Leviathan." -- Sen. William E. Jenner (R Ind.) Dec. 20 newsletter.

FOOD SURPLUS -- "We have been doing a great deal of talking and thinking about the possibility of shipping part of the huge food surpluses now held in federal storage to foreign nations.... We should be performing a no-less important service by making these food supplies directly available to those needy families scattered throughout our own country.... This program would serve as an effective and productive method of cutting down part of the huge surpluses which are now direct factors in depressing farm prices.... When a plan can be projected which aids the unfortunate and simultaneously points toward a solution of one of our economic problems, it should be adopted and expanded." -- Sen. George H. Bender (R Ohio) Dec. 24 newsletter.

"There is a disturbing lag in fully utilizing surpluses which have been made available to our own people at home. State welfare agencies and others have simply not capitalized fully on the possibilities of aid to low-income families.... Nothing less than the appointment of a top individual, free from all other administrative responsibilities and able to work on this all-important problem exclusively, will satisfy the domestic and urgent international need.... Congress will, I am sure, respond to this need.... But in the meanwhile, a White House expeditor could start the program rolling at top speed." -- Sen. Alexander Wiley (R Wis.) Dec. 25 newsletter.

CAA STATUS -- "The recent heavy-handed moves by Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks and Undersecretary (Louis S.) Rothschild to inject political considerations into CAA's operations prove beyond doubt that it was a mistake ever to put the Civil Aeronautics Administration in the Commerce Department.... It was a mistake ever to take away the independent status of the CAA.... The CAA was established to handle the problems of the aviation industry.... It is not concerned with the operation of railroads.... It seems to me to be high time that Congress took the initiative in making certain that the aviation industry's problems are handled independently from those of other forms of transportation." -- Rep. Carl Albert (D Okla.) Dec. 26 newsletter.

EDUCATION -- "More than 2,000 educators and interested lay people recently attended the White House Conference on Education, devoted to the problems of our public schools.... From early reports, I do not believe there will be any earth-shaking results from this conference. We have had public education in America for over 100 years; there have been discussions about its problems during that time, and there will continue to be problems and discussions in the future.... One noted educator told me that the biggest achievement of the...conference is the great interest in education which it has stimulated throughout the nation. Each state held a state conference prior to the Washington meeting. Reports on these meetings have focused attention on our schools as never before..." -- Rep. William G. Bray (R Ind.) Dec. 15 newsletter.

OIL AND WILDLIFE -- "I have just learned that practically all of the 264 national wildlife refuges were thrown open to oil and gas leasing on Dec. 2 under a new code signed by Secretary of the Interior (Douglas) McKay.... (His) revision of regulations... is shocking because he declared only a few weeks ago that no such thing would occur.... The first lease... is dated 1 December, the day before Secretary McKay signed the order throwing open practically all the wildlife refuges to oil and gas operators. The difference in dates suggests a give-away worse than Dixon-Yates which should certainly be investigated by Congress." -- Rep. Lee Metcalf (D Mont.) Dec. 23 release.



The Week in Congress

Paths Cross

All roads will lead to Washington next week for Congressmen, but the man whose words they are leaving home to hear went the other way. President Eisenhower traveled south to Key West, Fla., to get what the doctor ordered: exercise and sunshine. Also because of doctor's orders, Mr. Eisenhower will not return for the reconvening of Congress Jan. 3 nor will he read his State of the Union Message Jan. 5. Senate and House clerks will read the message for him. The President arrived in Key West Dec. 28, is expected to stay about two weeks. (Page 1352)

Tax Outlook

The Joint Economic Report Tax Policy Subcommittee reported, in effect, don't upset the applecart by cutting taxes, the economy is fine. The Subcommittee did recommend changes in levying taxes to correct inequities. It also said the tax base should be broadened. But as for tax cuts in 1956: They "might well be inflationary." The Subcommittee said cash surplus should go toward paying off the national debt. Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D Ill.) said loopholes should be plugged in current tax laws. The resulting income would enable the government eventually to reduce taxes for low income groups, he said. (Page 1353)

Alignments

President Eisenhower's name will be submitted for him in the Pennsylvania Presidential primary April 24 by State Rep. Paige Varner. Varner said he had no idea whether Pennsylvania's famous resident wanted to run. Further west, in Wisconsin, 10 men got together to work for the renomination of Mr. Eisenhower. And in Massachusetts, Rep. John W. Heselton (R) said if the President did not want the Presidency again, he would support Gov. Christian A. Herter for it. Texas Gov. Allan Shivers told fellow Democrats that his party would have to put up "quite a stepper" to beat Mr. Eisenhower in Texas. Shivers said Adlai E. Stevenson did not fill the bill. (Page 1351)

Election Refrain

The second session of the 84th Congress shapes up as one long election campaign. One subject certain to receive a lot of attention is the welfare field. There is basic agreement on liberalizing Social Security, improving housing, and protecting the nation's health. But the parties will try to sell different approaches to these goals. A more clear-cut dispute looms over power. Republicans are expected to take the side of local and private enterprise, Democrats will push for federal projects. (Page 1341)

Merging Dirge

The House Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee termed the 1955 rash of bank mergers "one of the most ominous clouds on the economic horizon." The Subcommittee termed enforcement of the Celler-Kefauver Antimerger Act just a "token gesture." The group called for stepped up legal activity to prevent further disappearance of firms into the "swelling mergertide." (Page 1353)

Labor Poll

Adlai E. Stevenson and Chief Justice Earl Warren came out on top of a "who do you want for President if Ike doesn't run" poll conducted by the International Association of Machinists' newspaper. The poll tallied labor leaders' votes according to parties, found Warren got 74 percent of the Republican votes and Stevenson 62 percent of the Democrats'. (Page 1350)

Double Talk

The double talk season is slated to open in earnest next month as both Republicans and Democrats swing into the 1956 election year with, "We lived up to our platform promises but you didn't." The script for this show for the voters will be each party's 1952 platform. (Page 1317).

Red Handbook

A Senate Judiciary Subcommittee published a 100-page book on "The Communist Party of the United States of America," designed to tell what the party is and how it works. The Subcommittee said there was misinformation about the party; added that those who belittle Communist strength in the United States "are deluding themselves" about a "mass conspiratorial organization." (Page 1353)